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Phan appeals to 9th Circuit. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'Kumoi' passes away

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former senator and executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. passed away last Tuesday due to an unconfirmed illness. His age at the time of his passing was not immediately available.

Ramon "Kumoi" Santos Deleon Guerrero served as a Commonwealth senator representing Saipan from 2000 to 2004.

Deleon Guerrero lost a re-election attempt following his first term. He ran for the gubernatorial position in 2009 but lost.

Deleon Guerrero also served as executive director of CUC.

As a show of respect, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres directed in a proclamation signed yesterday that CNMI and U.S. flags be lowered to half-staff "as a mark of respect for the life and service of the late honorable Ramon 'Kumoi' Santos Deleon Guerrero."

Three-time former Senate president and colleague Sen. Paul Man-

See KUMOI on Page 4

IPI expects close to 400 workers by May

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With over 1,500 approved H-visas, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is expecting to have close to 90 workers with H-visas by April 2018 to continue working on their casino resort.

According to IPI executive Eric Poon in the Commonwealth Casino Commission meeting last March 15, IPI's 1,542 approved H-2B visa holders are expected to start arriving this week.

See IPI on Page 4

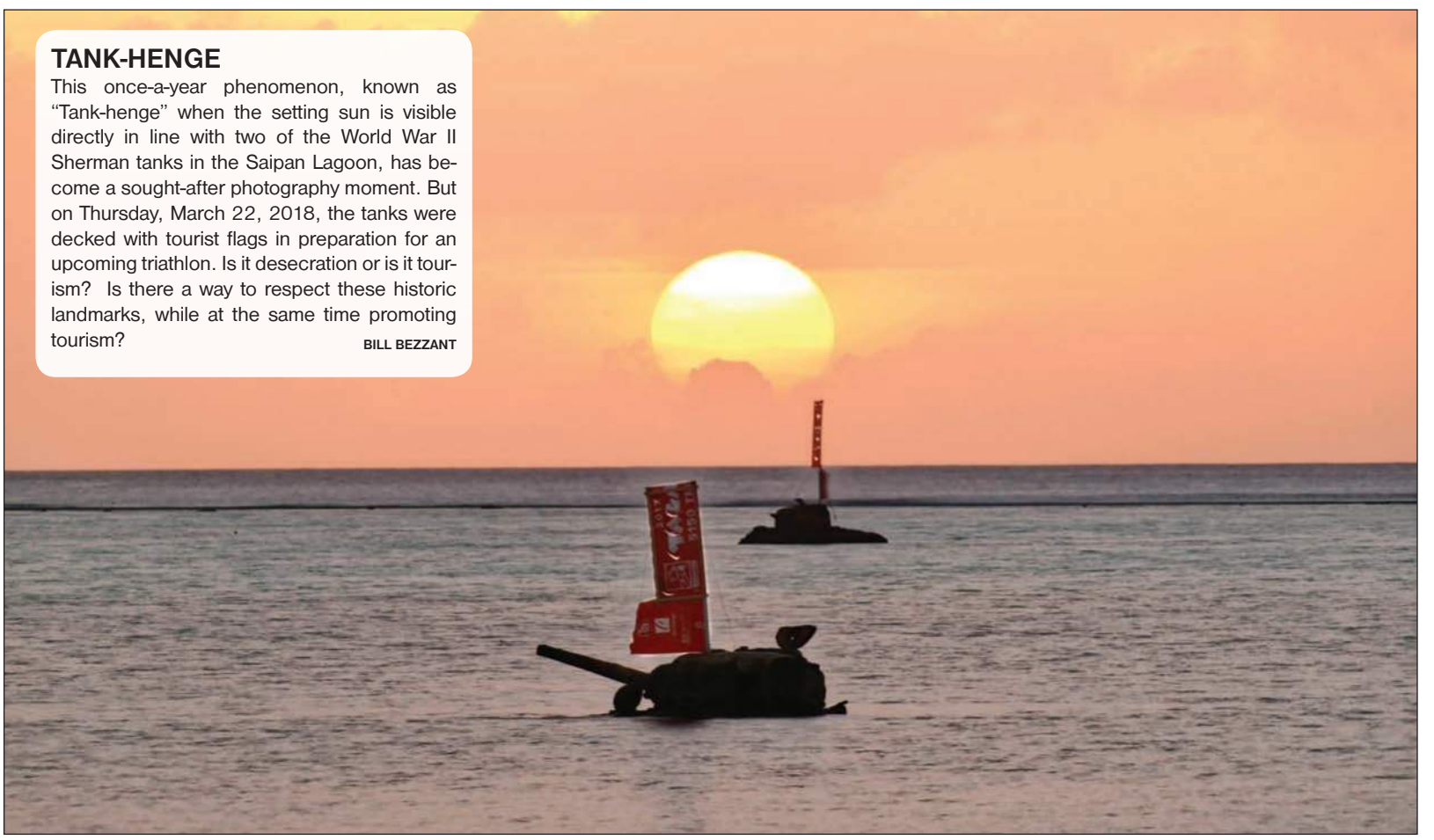
'The magic will live on'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Baldyga

The long-running Sand-Castle magic show will end its 16 years of bringing entertainment and delight to Saipan with a final show on March 31, 2018.

See MAGIC on Page 4



TANK-HENGE

This once-a-year phenomenon, known as "Tank-henge" when the setting sun is visible directly in line with two of the World War II Sherman tanks in the Saipan Lagoon, has become a sought-after photography moment. But on Thursday, March 22, 2018, the tanks were decked with tourist flags in preparation for an upcoming triathlon. Is it desecration or is it tourism? Is there a way to respect these historic landmarks, while at the same time promoting tourism?

BILL BEZZANT

DPW: No intention of allocating unobligated $5.8M

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Responding to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) press release yesterday, the Department of Public Works said it has no intention of obligating the $5.8 million that Sablan's statement had said is still with the CNMI government.

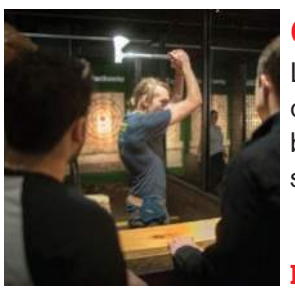
In a separate response to Sablan's March 9, 2018 letter, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) explained that, after consulting DPW, the $5.8 million that Sablan said the CNMI government is sitting on is an accumulation of "various carryovers or leftover funds from completed highway projects from previous years."

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan),

See DPW on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Guma Hustisia building in Susupe has been closed to the public since Friday.
PAGE 9



OFF THE WALL
Leave it to the hipsters of Brooklyn to combine craft beer and sharp objects.
PAGE 22

LIFE & STYLE
A court upholds a copyright infringement verdict against Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams.
PAGE 24

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

'Deleon Guerrero contract OK'd her termination without cause'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education was allowed to terminate Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero as education commissioner at any time and for any reason, according to special assistant attorney general Tiberius D. Mocanu.

Mocanu, as counsel for BOE and its members, pointed out that Deleon Guerrero was an at-will employee and that no provision of her contract required a pre-termination hearing.

Mocanu said that not getting along with someone is not an unlawful reason to terminate an at-will employee and not sufficient to trigger the protection afforded by the 14th and Fifth Amendment.

"Moreover, to announce that you do not get along with someone is not defaming that person. It is a statement of fact," he said.

Mocanu made these points in the BOE's reply on Wednesday to Deleon Guerrero's lawsuit.

Deleon Guerrero is suing the BOE and its members in federal court for terminating her last October. She is also suing the board members in their individual capacities. She is demanding $350,000 in damages.

According to Deleon Guerrero, her termination was done in retaliation for her questioning BOE's micromanagement of PSS and her refusal to request for an unlawful transfer of $175,000 in PSS funds to the board's account.

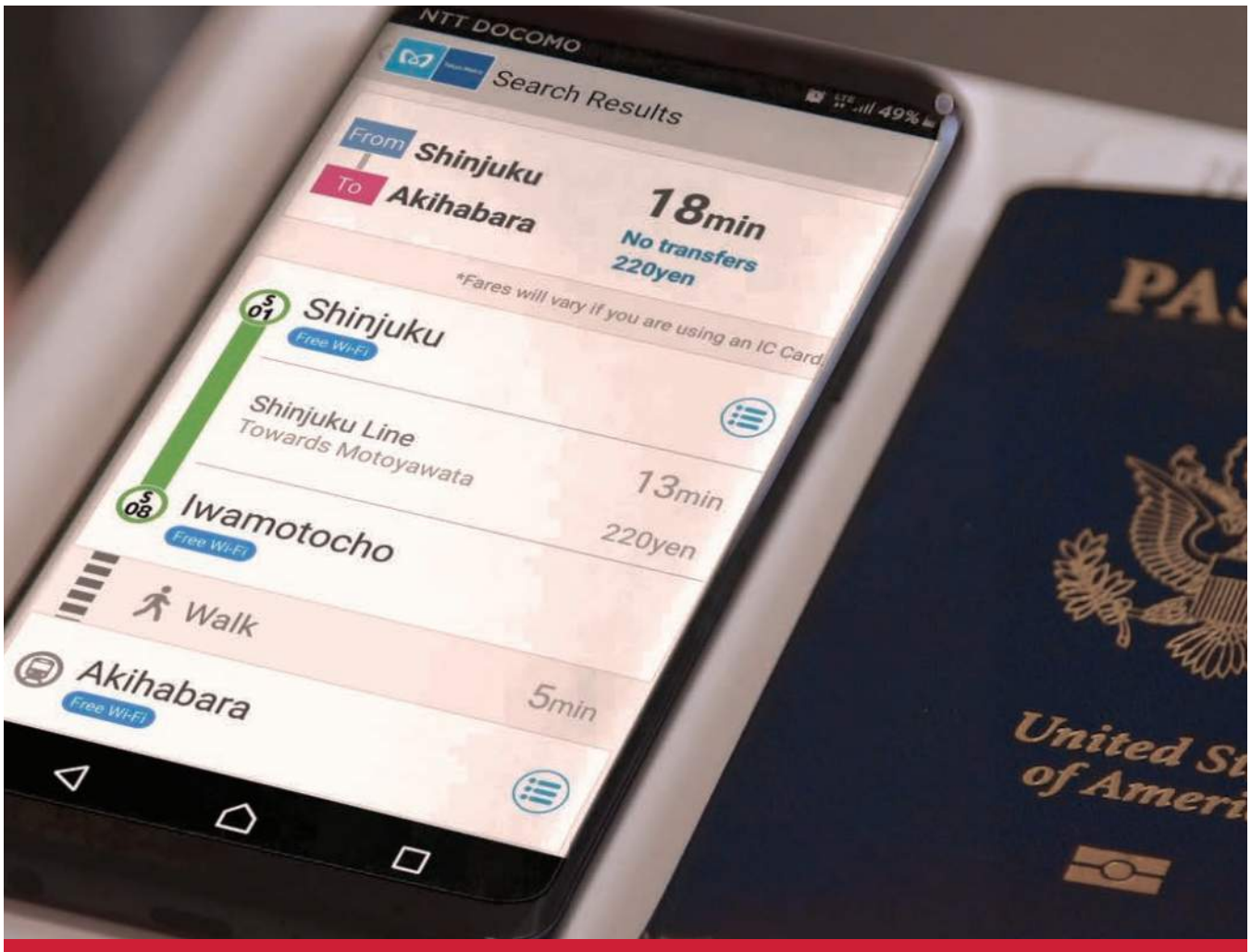
Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Deleon Guerrero, said the defendants, in an attempt to justify the purported termination without cause and through chair MaryLou S. Ada, made a public statement that Deleon Guerrero was terminated because she was not getting along with BOE members.

BOE and its members then filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. Deleon Guerrero opposed the motion to dismiss.

In the BOE and its members' reply to Deleon Guerrero's opposition, Mocanu said even if the allegations of harassment and micromanagement were true, they only describe an unhappy workplace.

"In and of themselves, however, they do not form a legal cause of action, absent discriminatory *animus*," Mocanu said.

Deleon Guerrero also alleges that she was told to perform an act that she believed to be illegal, that she refused, and was eventually terminated. Mocanu said that Deleon Guerrero, however, misapplied her claim of retaliation to her causes of action.



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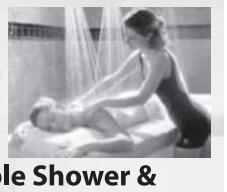

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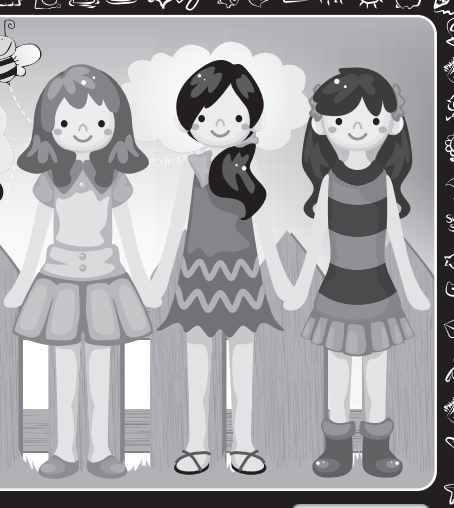

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VOX POPULI

What does Covenant Day mean to you?

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI celebrates tomorrow a milestone that was crossed about 42 years ago that gave the Northern Mariana Islands its status as a commonwealth.

On March 24, 1976, the U.S government signed the agreement known as the Covenant Agreement that allowed the Northern Mariana Islands to enter into a political union with the United States, but with the right to local self-government. That day has since become known as Covenant Day.

However, since then, many no longer remember the day's importance. The *Saipan Tribune* went out to ask what exactly Covenant Day means to the islands today.

■■■

"Covenant Day means a lot to our people. Our forefathers met with the United States delegation to negotiate our Commonwealth and what we can and cannot control."
—Saipan Mayor David Apatang

"It [Covenant Day] was a historical event for the people of the CNMI. The Covenant is an agreement which established the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. It established a political union with the United States."
—Joann Aquino, Saipan Mayor's Office

"Covenant Day was when we became a part of the United States and it was the day we were given U.S. citizenship. The Covenant also paved the way for us to establish our constitution."
—Larissa Flores, Saipan Mayor's Office

"Covenant Day signifies the Commonwealth's relationship with the United States and our United States citizenship.
—Henry Hofschneider, Saipan Mayor's Office

"Covenant Day is a time when I reflect on the struggles of past generations and the measures they took to choose a political status for the indigenous people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. It also opened up closer political ties with the United States and opened up a dialogue in the United States House of Representative by giving the CNMI a seat in the House of Representatives through the enactment of legislation."
—Danny Aquino, CNMI Museum

"Covenant Day is significant because, with the signing of the Covenant came a variety of opportunities for the islands' indigenous people as a result of the U.S. citizenship that came with the establishment of the Commonwealth."
—Hanzel Campollo Batan, DFS Galleria

"I know that, if it were not for Covenant Day, we wouldn't have all the amazing benefits that were once only exclusive to Americans. Today means celebration of our freedom."
—Jose Marks, San Jose

2 sites on Saipan red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Sugar Dock and Chalan Kanoa District 2 drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these sites contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500.***(DEQ)***

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IPI

From Page 1

There would be about 90 more workers by April 2018, he said, and close to 400 workers by May 2018.

"Right now, we have around 230 workers on site doing different types of [jobs] and also, we have 25 management staff," he said.

Poon added that in cooperation with their new prime contractor, Pacific Rim Construction, they have been steadily increasing their worker numbers by the day.

"As of today, we have over 200 [additional] people from Pacific Rim," said Poon.

Casino commissioner Alvaro Santos asked to confirm with Poon if the additional workers are already counted in the 1,542 H-2B visas. Poon replied that the workers currently working at the site consist of U.S.-eligible workers from the mainland, Guam, and Hawaii.

Poon noted that majority of the H-2B visa holders originated from Taiwan and the Philippines.

The estimated 90 H-2B permit holders expected by April are reported to be Taiwanese nationals, according to an IPI report handout submitted to the casino commission.

According to the same handout, the overall completion percentage is starting to see movement after dropping to sluggish rates, with a completion rate of 64.8 percent as compared to 64.5 percent as previously projected.

Photo shows the Commonwealth Casino Commission at its meeting last March 15. Members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission met with Pacific Rim president Keith Stewart for the first time last week.

ERWIN ENCINARES

MAGIC

From Page 1

The show's closure is being deemed a "natural expiration" as its lease with Hyatt Regency Saipan is up.

The show, which debuted in Guam on Dec. 17, 1990, and extended to Saipan in 2002, was made possible by the Baldyga Group of Guam. Mark Baldyga, Baldyga Group chairman and CEO, said his vision was to bring world-class American entertainment to the Micronesia region.

"Our first show [in Guam] was called American Glitz, which we presented as a 'Las Vegas show.' Our nightclub was presented as a 'New York-style' discotheque. It was all about bringing a taste of America to a U.S. destination for Asian visitors," he said.

"…Our company motto is 'once-in-a-lifetime, every time!' and I love watching the faces of customers, especially children. That, in a way, is its own reward. …We are fortunate and blessed to be able to do something we enjoy and love," he added.

In hindsight, Baldyga seemed made for the entertainment business. He began studying music at the age 4 and was already performing even before reaching the age of 10.

"By high school, I was studying and recording in New York, performing in the Boston Youth Symphony and touring Europe and the U.S. In college, I studied classical music performance, conducting and composing," he said.

"After graduation I was working as a musician in New York City when I responded to an ad seeking piano players for Guam. I performed as a piano player in the Hotel Okura lobby lounge during the summer of 1987."

It was that summer that Baldyga came up with the idea that eventually became the SandCastle magic show production.

"At age 24, I sought an investor and obtained $32-million project financing, designed the building, supervised construction, produced the show, hired the staff, and opened the business in 1990."

"Eventually I bought out the original investor and expanded to add SandCastle Saipan, BIG Sunset dinner cruise, Ride the Ducks, Taotao Tasi island show, The Beach Bar and Restaurant, etc. We now have 400 team members," he added.

The company wanted a different product on Saipan—a smaller, "cabaret" version of its Guam show—and the concept was immediately embraced by residents and tourists.

"For those who haven't been to SandCastle Guam, it's quite different. In Guam, we have a very large physical plant on nearly four acres of property with a production kitchen, grand hall, and a stage facility larger than any on Broadway in New York," he said.

"By contrast, on Saipan we simply took a small semi-outdoor discotheque inside a hotel and created a magic showroom. We wanted to design a venue that was well suited for magic, including close-up magic [like in SandCastle Guam] and to present American entertainment for both visitors and residents alike."

Opening the SandCastle show on Saipan was not without its challenges.

"The resources are sparse, especially for a professional stage operation. Everything needs to be flown in. Like all tourism businesses on Saipan, we faced market challenges, yen devaluation, increased regional competition, storms, and so forth," he said.

"Fortunately, we were already familiar with most of the challenges, having operated in Guam since 1990, and so we were well equipped to work through them."

Baldyga recalls that when the curtains first opened on SandCastle Saipan, the experience was different compared to when the show opened in Guam.

"The venue is intimate and personal and I was very proud of what our team was able to accomplish on Saipan. It is not easy to produce world-class products given the scarcity of resources. But it was a team effort and I was proud of the team," he said.

"With the exception of the performers, we had all local hires. We trained the stage crew and everyone involved in the operation. I am quite proud of that as I was also very appreciative of the local support, which we had from the day we opened until now. Saipan has been very good to us and we appreciate it," he added.

With the lease agreement with Hyatt Regency up, renewing was no longer feasible for the Baldyga Group.

"It was initially a 10-year lease and Hyatt extended the lease repeatedly year after year. The decision to not further extend the lease was actually Hyatt's decision and not ours," Baldyga said. "We would have gladly continued the operation and it is my understanding that the hotel now wants to use the space as a banquet and event room. That's perfectly understandable. …Hyatt has been a great partner and we appreciate their support over the years."

SandCastle show might be saying goodbye, but not Baldyga. He promises to return to Saipan to offer new entertainment that is in tune with starting a new journey on island.

"We are just a short hop away and we are still here in spirit. I'll personally continue to visit the island and, when the time is right we will look forward to bringing something new and exciting to Saipan," he said. "It's probably time for something new as customers and markets evolve. If and when we return to Saipan, it will be some form of entertainment but it likely won't be a magic show," he said.

"… We love and appreciate Saipan... It's a warm and charming place filled with good people… we will be back for that," he added.

KUMOI

From Page 1

glona (Ind-Rota) said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune* that he remembers Deleon Guerrero as a passionate colleague.

"I will always remember [Deleon Guerrero] as an eloquent debater and a strong leader. His term in the Senate reflected his passion for fighting injustice and addressing our islands' infrastructure needs," Manglona said.

Sen. Francisco Borja (R-Tinian), who worked with Deleon Guerrero when he was still a CUC executive director, said he was able to secure several projects that benefitted the people of Tinian at the time.

"[Deleon Guerrero] was a very good person. He was a dedicated public servant, especially when he was an executive director for CUC. He did a lot of things for the people of Tinian; I appreciate it and I extend my condolences to his family," he said. "The CNMI lost a great person."

Though he didn't work with Deleon Guerrero directly, Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) said that Deleon Guerrero was one of those politicians who must be recognized for his services.

"He was a director [of CUC] back then when I was still a member of the Tinian Department of Public Safety," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*. "I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the late [Deleon Guerrero's] family for his untimely passing as well as extend appreciation toward his family for his services to the CNMI."

Funeral services for Deleon Guerrero are still being arranged and will be announced at a later date.

DPW

From Page 1

who chairs the Senate Public Utilities and Transportation Committee, essentially said the same thing in an interview yesterday. He said the amount is a collection of leftover funds from 2013 onwards.

Palacios said in his letter to Sablan that the DPW Technical Services Division has no intention of obligating the $5.8 million just yet. He said the TSD's Federal Highway Administration advisor will be on Saipan in April 2018, during which the DPW director will present TSD's proposal to obligate the $5.8 million.

Palacios added that the TSD director also informed the Senate that the CNMI's highway four-year plan adopted in August 2017 requires "more than $20 million to complete," so unobligated federal highway funds would be eliminated.

Igisomar said in an interview yesterday that there may be a "difference in opinion on how to grade performance."

Sablan had said in his press release that securing additional funding would remain tricky for the CNMI if there are still unobligated funds in the funding pool. In a January 2018 letter with Delegate Amata Aumua C. Radewagen (R-A. Samoa), both requested the U.S. Department of Transportation for additional funding for road improvements. USDOT denied that request early this month, citing millions in untouched funding in each territory.

Funds the CNMI obtains annually—amounting to $3.9 million for road purposes—are always being used immediately, said Igisomar. He added that the activity rate of the CNMI is topnotch in the nation.

Based on a quarterly inactive obligations report from the FHWA, CNMI funding inactivity percentage is one of the best at 0.1 percent. Money is considered inactive if obligations do not have expenditure activity for 12 months or more.

The report states that CNMI has an inactivity percentage of just 0.1 percent while American Samoa is at 22.8 percent, Guam's at 14.4 percent, and U.S. Virgin Islands at 6.7 percent.

"…The interpretation coming from [Sablan] and the interpretation coming from the [FHWA] seem to believe that we are not necessarily performing," he said, citing the inactivity percentage comparisons.

"This shows that our drawdown rate [the sum of leftover funding] is actually acceptable and tolerable because we are able to use it for any form of emergency or catastrophe in the CNMI when we run out of funds," said Igisomar.

Unobligated funds, as explained by DPW, are reverted monies from closed projects that become available for DPW to re-obligate, which is done according to needs or unforeseen costs.

In a speech during the miscellaneous section of yesterday's Senate session on Capitol Hill, Igisomar said he and Palacios remain thankful to Sablan for pointing this out. By doing so, Sablan may be able to echo concerns regarding the annual allocations of $3.9 million, which is only 20 percent of total allocations to territories.

Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands get 80 percent of the total FHWA funds. This has been in effect since 1992 and, according to Sablan, he and Radewagen have been trying to make the funding fairer since the Obama administration.

Igisomar said he wishes to take this as an opportunity to request for higher allocation to territories.

"This way, the 10 percent of $3.9 million allocated to [the] CNMI…may increase. Currently, all territories share the annual allocation," he said, adding that he also wishes for incentives and penalties to be implemented for any state complying or deviating from the 2.0 percent goal of the National Inactive Report.

Igisomar further asked for a special fund to provide additional support to speed up Route 33, or Beach Road and Route 36, or the road from Kingfisher to Kalabera.

"There is more to this than meets the eye, and I truly thank [Sablan] for allowing us this opportunity," said Igisomar.

Company owner insists claims vs his company defective

The owner of a security company who is being sued in federal court by 14 former guards who alleged that they paid a total of $130,262 in recruitment fees in exchange for jobs and green cards now insists that he is not covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act because his company is a small business.

Md. Nurul Islam Bhuiyan said his company, Island Protection Service, that he formed in 2008 does not have gross sales of $500,000 a year. That means the U.S. District Court for the NMI does not have jurisdiction over the FLSA claims raised by his former employees.

Janet H. King, counsel for Bhuiyan, asserted that to qualify for coverage under the FLSA, Island Protection Services must have annual sales of $500,000 or more.

In a motion for summary judgment, King said Island Protection Services also does not engage in commerce and is not covered by the FLSA.

In his declaration in court, Bhuiyan belied the plaintiffs' allegation that he has annual gross revenues in excess of $500,000

The plaintiffs are suing Bhuiyan and his company for allegedly not paying them the minimum wage and overtime and charging them with immigration filing fees. The security guards are claiming unpaid wages and overtime compensation in an amount ranging from $3,355 to $21,593, for a total of $214,505.

The 14 plaintiffs are Shomon Ullah Monshi, Syful Islam, Nasir Uddin, Mohammed M. Billah, Addullah Al Mamun, Abdullah Al Mahamud, MD Rabi Ullah, Maksudur Rahman, Amir Rasool, Hemayet Hossen, MD Shahidul Islam, Billah Hossen Sarkar, Khirul Basher, and MD Solaiman Munshi. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

US Naval Hospital Guam to hold readiness exercise

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Naval Hospital Guam will conduct a readiness exercise from 9pm March 23, to 3am March 24. The exercise ensures the hospital meets contingency requirements in case of emergencies. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training including lights, sirens and helicopter operations. The hospital's emergency department will remain open to all emergencies throughout the exercise. ***(PR)***

Islandwide cleanup on April 20

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be joining the 2018 Environmental Awareness Month Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, April 20, from 3pm to 4:30pm and Saturday, April 21, from 8am to 10am. If you would like to volunteer, contact the BECQ no later than April 18, 2018, at 4pm. For more information about volunteering, contact Jose Kaipat at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

JKPL open today, closed tomorrow

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be open today, March 23, from 10am to 6pm, but will close tomorrow, March 24, in observance of Covenant Day. For more information, call (670) 235-7323 (READ). Visit @joeten kiyu on facebook and our website at www.cnmilib.org for the latest. ***(PR)***

Kagman church to host free breakfast

Kagman Community Church in Kagman III will be having a free community breakfast this Saturday, March 24, from 9am to 9:30am and a clothing/slipper giveaway from after breakfast, 11am. Please bring a bag or box to take clothes and slippers home with you. All are welcome! ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 until 10am today, March 23. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Power interruption on March 23 and 24

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Friday, March 23, and Saturday March 24, from 6am to 11am to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace six 45-foot wooden poles with concrete poles along Is Drive in North San Vicente village. The north San Vicente Water well will be affected but not the wastewater lifts station. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

Military training in Guam FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military is conducting training at Naval Base Guam and the island of Farallon de Medinilla until March 29, from noon to 11pm. Residents in the area can expect to hear an increase in Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 traffic as part of this training. These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the islands of Guam and Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of each island. ***(PR)***

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The CNMI Family Planning Program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs, Title X

NMC to stream CNMI Women's Summit online

Northern Marianas College will be live streaming the upcoming CNMI Women's Summit scheduled for March 26-27, 2018, from 8am to 4:30pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The two-day event will feature Monika H. Diaz as keynote speaker, and will include panel discussions, activities, along with the exhibits.

Those who are not able to attend the event in person can watch the live stream online.

Day 1: https://youtu.be/l9O-hhG8Dfk

■ 9am: Women & Faith, feat. Bishop Ryan Jimenez, pastor Beth Nunez, and Sr. Mary Ann Hartman, MMB

■ 10:15am: Women & The Workforce, feat. Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, Office of Personnel Management director Sid Seman, and Northern Marianas Trades Institute chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres

■ 1pm: Women & Education, feat NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, Coastal States Organization director Rose Pangelinan, and Workers' Compensation Commission director Frank Cabrera

Day 2: https://youtu.be/bBSIUkBgtUk

■ 8:05am: Women & The Economy, feat. Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios, Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman, CNMI Small Business Development Center director Nicole Babauta, Pacifica Insurance president Shirley Sablan

■ 9:10am: Women & Public Service, feat. Rep. Janet Maratita, former representative Ana S. Teregeyo, former representative Maria T. Peter, and former representative Felicidad T. Ogumoro

■ 12:30pm: Women & Health, feat. Breast and Cervical Screening Program coordinator Joyce M. Songsong, Commonwealth Guidance Center psychologist Glenda George, senior vice president of Westcare Sarah Thomas Nededog

■ 1:35 pm: Women & Culture, feat. retired educator Carmen Taimanao, facilitator of Family & Values Project Chailang Palacios.

Complimentary refreshments and lunch will be provided on both days.

For more information or to register for the event, call 233-9411 or email Doly at cwa.dofitial@gmail.com.

Registration forms can also be accessed online at https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/ or in-person at the Garapan Community Development Center.

The 5th Annual Women's Summit is sponsored by the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs Office. ***(PR)***

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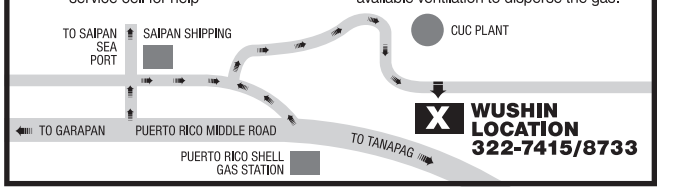

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Phan appeals to 9th Circuit

Businessman David Trung Quoc Phan is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit his eight-month prison sentence after being convicted for his role in a scheme to bring Bangladeshi men to Saipan on promises of jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

Phan notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday about his appeal. He wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse District Court for the NMI designated Judge John Coughenour's judgment issued last Friday, March 16. The notice did not indicate Phan's grounds for the appeal.

The U.S. government had recommended a sentence of 30 months in prison for Phan but the judge sentenced him to just eight months.

Shortly after the sentencing hearing last March 9, his lawyer, Steven Pixley, said they are happy with the shorter sentence, that the judge considered all the factors and found that Phan's role was minimal as he never went to Bangladesh and that it was very clear he was not involved in money transactions.

Pixley said Phan, however, has an option to appeal.

Last March 9, Coughenour sentenced the 54-year-old Phan to eight months in prison, to be followed by two years of supervised release.

Coughenour did not require Phan to pay restitution to the victims because he determined that the businessman has no direct involvement in collecting recruitment fees from them.

Phan was ordered to pay $600 in special assessment fee.

Last Oct. 18, the jury found Phan guilty of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Phan's co-defendant, Muksedur Rahman, was found guilty of two counts of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting. He was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment, to be followed by two years of supervised release.

A third defendant, Mohammed Rafiqul Islam, was found guilty of one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting. He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

Islam, together with Rahman, was ordered to pay $188,426 in restitution to the victims. He is also appealing to the Ninth Circuit. Islam and Rahman are brothers.

Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted. Defendant Zeaur Rahman Dalu pleaded guilty, but he has yet to be sentenced.

According to the U.S. government, each of the victims paid over $10,000, but when they arrived on Saipan in April of 2016, they were not given work as promised.

The government named five victims, all Bangladeshi men. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NWS extends drought period for CNMI

Drought in the Northern Mariana Islands is expected to worsen in the next couple of weeks, according to a notice yesterday from the National Weather Service Forecast Office out of Tiyan, Guam.

The NWS notice said that satellite images show very dry weather over the Mariana Islands and remain in short-term moderate drought, called Drought Level 1 of 4. Some showers have fallen recently; however, much drier weather is expected to develop during the next few weeks.

There has been a rash of grassfires in the CNMI in the last few weeks. A house in Chalan Kanoa went up in flames this week.

With the expectation of moderate to occasionally strong trade winds over most of Micronesia in the next couple of months, the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is advising CNMI residents to refrain from outdoor burning activities so as not to cause wildfires and endanger surrounding life and property.

The Office of HSEM advises to take all necessary precautionary measures at this time; all outdoor burning activity is not recommended and should be delayed.

Visit the following links for the latest advisory information:

■ NWS Website: http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

■ NWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWS-Guam/

■ CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/ ***(PR, With Saipan Tribune)***

Court hearings at Multi-Purpose, DPS offices

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guma Hustisia or House of Justice building in Susupe has been closed to the public since Friday before noon. In the meantime, the Superior Court is holding hearings in a small room at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center and at the Department of Public Safety's training offices.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI in Garapan and the Department of Public Safety's training offices in Susupe were designated yesterday as temporary court locations.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja said in a public notice yesterday that the Guma Hustisia will be closed until today, Friday.

Castro and Naraja said the air-conditioning system at the Guma Hustisia is temporarily online, but repair and monitoring efforts continue, along with testing and manual assessments for the system's temperature controls and its impact on office readiness.

Castro and Naraja said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Bureau of Environmental Health will be inspecting the offices and courtrooms for health and safety standards.

In a statement Wednesday night, Castro and Naraja disclosed that a mold remediation assessment was recently started at the building to assist in long-term planning.

"The potential impact from the rise in temperature and lack of air circulation, caused by the recent air-conditioning system malfunction, is being closely observed and monitored," they said.

A source earlier raised the possibility that a mold problem is causing the air-conditioning system problem.

Meanwhile, the Office of Adult Probation's satellite office behind the Guma Hustisia will maintain regular business hours.

Tinian and Rota courts will maintain regular business hours.

While the Guma Hustisia building remains closed, some court staff were seen working inside the building last Wednesday.

Yesterday, only the court marshals were allowed to work inside the building, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

A concerned court employee said he/she is hoping that Castro and Naraja would share the mold test results that were allegedly issued a couple of months ago. The staff said that if the mold issue is not dangerous, then the report should be shared.

"But if it's dangerous, the employees and the public need to know," the employee said.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio held family court hearings on Wednesday inside the small display room at the Multi-Purpose Center. Yesterday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho held numerous traffic cases hearing in the same display room.

Inside the display room, there is one long plastic table for the judge and another for the court staff. The prosecution and defense share the third table. Three chairs are reserved for the public.

The other small room next to the display room has been converted into a holding area for defendants.

Joaquin Torres, who appeared with his client, told the court at Wednesday's hearing that he had on a necktie but chose not to wear it because he had no idea about the court's setup at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Torres also asked if hearings will be done at the Multi-Purpose for a long time. Kim-Tenorio replied that she's hoping it's not.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
A display room at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe has been temporarily used as a courtroom for Superior Court hearings while the air-conditioning system is being repaired at the Guma Hustisia building.

Guerrero is Saipan's newest Rotarian

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rotary Club of Saipan members welcomed a new member during the club's weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni restaurant.

First Hawaiian Bank business banking officer Dave Guerrero was sworn in by Rotary Club president Thomas Thornburgh.

Although he is not acquainted with many of the current Rotary members and he isn't familiar with many faces at the club, Guerrero said he was prompted to join as he is passionate about making Saipan the best that it can be for his two children.

According to Thornburgh, becoming a member of the Rotary Club gives people the ability to do more for the community.

Before officially inducting Guerrero, Thornburgh reminded him that being a part of the Rotary Club means he is considered to be a role model in his line of work, as well as in the community.

"We look to you to be a liaison between us and the other members of your profession… and it becomes your duty to carry Rotary ideals and principle service to your friends, business associates, and the members of the location which you represent," he said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 8th birthday, Franklin Jon K. Laniyo! God bless always and have a joyous day! Much love from Daddy, Mommy, Kai, and MyLia.

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NMC Charter Day celebration on April 13

The Northern Marianas College is inviting the public to its 37th Charter Day festivities to celebrate the college's role in advancing educational opportunities for CNMI students. Charter Day will be on Friday, April 13, 2018, at the NMC south field in As Terlaje.

"Charter Day is one of our most exciting events of the year," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "It gives our college community an opportunity to showcase their programs and services and provides a great platform to feature local artists, school clubs, and community organizations."

"We'll be showcasing various programs, hosting fun competitions, and of course, featuring great entertainment," said Charter Day Planning Committee chair Alexis Cabrera. The festivities will kick off on Friday, April 13, at 4pm and will continue until 10pm. There will be an array of entertainment and competitions throughout the celebration. Delicious food, drinks, and games will also be offered for sale by numerous vendors. Agencies, businesses, clubs and other civic organizations are invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, game booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces will be on April 11, 2018. Booth space is limited so applications should be submitted prior to the deadline. The booth fee is $150 for businesses and organizations and $75 for NMC clubs and nonprofit organizations. For more information about reserving booth space, contact Queanna Sablan at 237-6809. For more information about Charter Day, contact Alexis Cabrera at 783-2356. ***(NMC)***

Kilili to host 2nd Veterans Resource Fair

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is once again hosting the Northern Marianas Veterans Resource Fair, for veterans, service members, and military families throughout the Marianas interested in learning more about the programs and services that are available to support them. The event is free and open to the public.

"Our mission is to connect our veterans, service members, and military families in the Marianas with the federal and local resources that are here to help them," Sablan said.

"Last year's fair was very well-received and well-attended, and we aim to build on that success this year," he added.

The 2nd Northern Marianas Veterans Resource Fair will be held on:

- Rota: April 4, mayor's conference hall, from 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Saipan: April 5, Pedro T. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm
- Tinian: April 6, Tinian Library, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm

Veterans Resource Fair participants will include the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA Pacific Islands Health Care System and VA Regional Benefits Office), the Guam Vet Center, the Army Reserve's Family Support Programs, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Veterans of Foreign Wars, VA Choice health providers, and a wide range of Commonwealth agencies and community organizations offering education and career services, small business development training, vocational rehabilitation, employment assistance, legal aid, home loans, crisis support, disability assistance, and social services.

Veterans and military family members who wish to meet with VA representatives to follow up on claims are asked to bring relevant supporting documents (i.e., copies of DD214 forms, medical records, marriage or birth certificates for dependents, etc.)

For more information contact the congressional office at (670) 323-2647 or email kilili@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP NMC

NMC's Cooperative Research Extension & Educational Services recently hosted a Composting Workshop where participants discussed the different types of composting as well as the best ingredients for home-managed compost. For more information about upcoming CREES agriculture workshops contact Solly Takai-Nakamura at sollyann.nakamura@marianas.edu.

SSHS choir makes debut

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Southern High School choir showcased their talents and also raised funds for new equipment in a concert at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Tuesday.

The Saipan Southern High School has been known for many things such as their outstanding academic accomplishments, their prestigious Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp achievements, and more, but not so much for the vocal talents on campus.

Since taking over the SSHS music program about a year ago, SSHS music instructor Lane Hoit has since organized ways for the community to witness the extraordinary singing talents hidden at Saipan Southern High.

According to Hoit, the concert last Tuesday night was the second choir concert he has organized for the SSHS Choir club.

"The purpose is to give the kids a chance to perform because part of their curriculum in a music class is performing and also just gives them a chance to show their parents, their friends, and the community what we are doing in class," he said.

At the concert, a box was put on display where parents, friends, or basic concert attendees could place donations.

"The funds usually go to purchasing musical instruments or for other emergencies that may come up and we need funds quickly but right now those funds would most likely go toward music," said Hoit.

The Saipan Southern High School choir consists of 45 students that range from ninth grade to 12th grade and were divided into two groups: group one (grades 9 and 10), and group 2 (grades 11 and 12).

Saipan Tribune later learned that Saipan Southern High School has been using musical equipment like percussions that date back years.

Interested donors or individuals interested in seeing the SSHS choir in action can attend the choir's next concert in May. Details are to be announced.

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39 students inducted into MCS honor societies

Newly inducted members of Mount Carmel School's Immaculate Conception chapter of the National Junior Honor Society and the Fr. Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society gather for a photo with Bishop Ryan Jimenez and school officials. MCS

This past week, 39 students were inducted into Mount Carmel School's Immaculate Conception Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society and Fr. Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society.

Bishop Ryan Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa was on hand to help celebrate the special occasion. He also opened the induction ceremony with a prayer and a blessing of the candles representing the values of the honor societies.

Soon after the blessing, current honor society students explained the respective values of the honor societies.

For the NJHS, those values are scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

For the NEHS, its values are scholarship, responsibility, leadership, and service.

Students who have a 3.0 GPA fulfill the scholarship value of each society and are invited to apply for membership, for which they must demonstrate that they embody the other values of each respective society.

Inductees were identified by the ceremonious "tapping" ritual, in which current honor society members go around tapping inductees on their shoulders and inviting them to the main staging area to take their oaths, receive their membership insignia, and sign into the membership ledger.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero capped the ceremony with remarks referring to Jesus's washing of the feet of the apostles. "In this moment, Jesus, even as the son of God, taught us to be humble, to serve others, and to lead by example," Deleon Guerrero said. "Likewise, you too must humbly serve as leaders."

Inductees into the Fr. Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the NEHS are: Annieskha Arreza, Aryanna Matsumoto, Chae Kim, Gavril Santiago, Heleyna Dela Santa, Irene Kim, Jada DLGuerrero, Jessiana Tenorio, Joseph Pangelinan, Kai Manning, Lance Javier, Laura Mareham, Lexi Langsangan, Maili Peter, Meagan Camacho, Mikaehla Mendoza, Mya Pangelinan, Oscar Buenaflor, Therese Ogo, Vallerie Estella, William Cano, and Zander Gray.

Inductees into the Immaculate Conception Chapter of the NJHS are Aleia Santos, Andrew Sablan, Avah Marie Torres, Daphne Rylee Cruzana, Devin Jordan Propst, Earle Gabreil San Nicolas, Elisa Ellen Blanco, Eric Oh, Ierlyma Deleon Guerrero, Jill Anne Marie Mallari, Kayannie Peter, Larry Dean Cruz, Leyonne Alfred Tolentino, Maria Torres, Miguel Villegas, Natalie Gabrielle Ano, Raesyl Gerard Solis, Ruben Antonio Guerrero, and Vicente Reyes. ***(PR)***

Newly inducted members of Mount Carmel School's Fr. Arnold Bendowsky chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society pledge their oath as members of the society. MCS

Newly inducted members of Mount Carmel School's Immaculate Conception chapter of the National Junior Honor Society pledge their oath as members of the society. MCS

MyPros to host first Girls Camp

The Marianas Young Professionals is looking at organizing its first Girls Camp for teen girls.

In an interview with MyPros board director Sheila Babauta at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni restaurant, one of MyPros' current projects is to create a Girls Camp for young women to be educated on how to handle issues that women face these days.

Many of the issues women face today deal with toxic relationships, family planning, self-image, and more.

The MyPros' Girls Camp will be a safe space for high school girls to discuss the importance of a healthy relationship, safe sex, self-confidence, contraceptives, esteem, and family planning.

Many of these topics are not commonly discussed at home or are not explained in depth at school and MyPros believes that these are important topics to learn at a young age.

MyPros has already started reaching out to various high schools to urge young women to take advantage of the Girl's Camp.

The camp is scheduled sometime in April. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

DREAM CAR CONTEST
Winners of Atkins Kroll Saipan's 12th Annual Dream Car Contest pose with their winning artwork during the awards ceremony two Saturdays ago at the auto dealership's showroom in Oleai. MARK RABAGO

MMAC to get logistical backing from the Saipan Mayor's Office

The Saipan Mayor's Office will be a major sponsor once again for the Marianas March Against Cancer, marking another year of providing logistical and manpower support for the CNMI's signature fundraising event for the fight against cancer.

Major sponsorship is given to one company or organization that has made a donation worth over $1,000 in cash or in-kind services.

"The Saipan Mayor's Office will arrange for their staff to assist with maintenance of the track area and help on safety matters with our law enforcement partners. We are very excited to have them play an integral role in our community's fight once again," said MMAC 2018 sponsorship chair Monique Sablan.

"For many years, the Saipan Mayor's Office has supported MMAC and our community. We are so grateful they have agreed again to ensure the event runs smoothly and safely. We want to thank Mayor David M. Apatang and his hardworking staff for their commitment," said MMAC 2018 co-chair Carline Sablan. ***(PR)***

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Breakfast: 7:00am - 10:00am Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast Buffet $19 **Sunday Brunch** *Reg.: $29 (Local: $25)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 **Buffet Lunch** *Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)* ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	Breakfast Buffet $19 ***Seafood & Sushi Night*** *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*

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Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm
Last Order : 8:30pm

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Dinner Buffet Location:
Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19
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Business Hours: 6pm-9pm

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Trump was right, Tillerson had to go

Rex Tillerson went rogue, constantly disagreed with the man who hired him and reportedly called him a "moron"—an "(expletive) moron," actually. The secretary of state's boss did what aggrieved bosses do—fired him, by tweet, of course.

That Tillerson stayed as long as he did in the Trump administration is nothing short of amazing. President Trump increasingly humiliated him at every turn, finally saying straight out on Tuesday that he and the country's chief diplomat were "not really thinking the same."

In exercising his prerogative, the president did absolutely the right thing. Trump, like any commander in chief, needs a secretary that's in sync with his thinking, who's opinion he'll trust, who will not be at odd, publicly with the boss.

The sniping back and forth between Tillerson and Trump undercut any credibility that the secretary of state might have carried with him around the globe. Who could take him at his word when Trump stood ready to kneecap him when he returned home?

Trump has no use for the Iran nuclear deal or the Paris Accord on climate change. Tillerson pushed back. While Trump traded braggadocious tweets with Kim Jong Un, even threatening to attack if pushed to the brink, Tillerson sought to walk softly—and without a big stick. Last week, while Tillerson pooh-poohed the possibility of negotiations with North Korea, Trump leaped at the chance—the very same day—to meet Kim. The secretary thought moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem was a bad idea. It's going to move.

And Russia. Always Russia. When criticizing Vladimir Putin, Tillerson could never gain any traction in the Trump White House, which is no surprise at all.

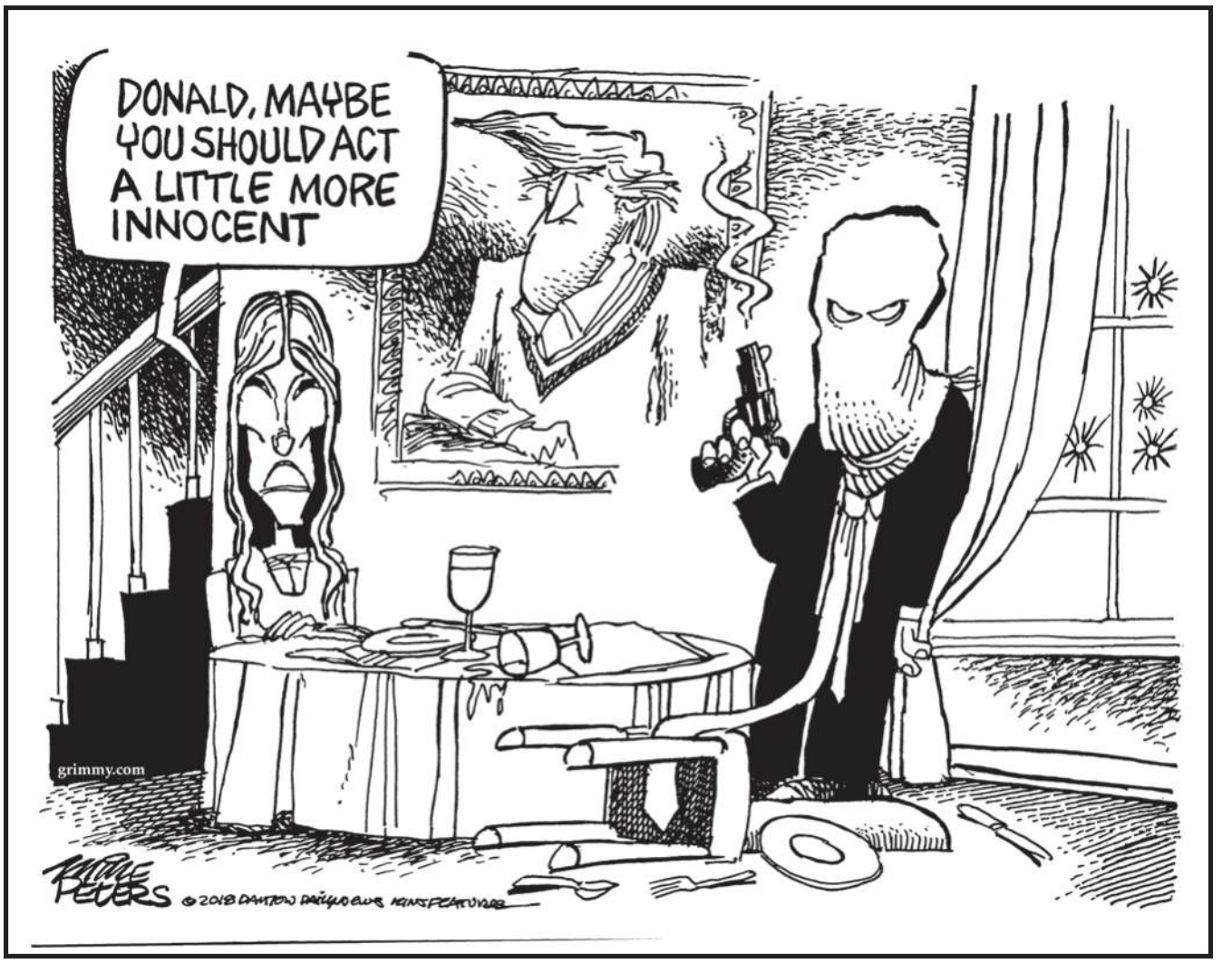
Plus, Tillerson's job is done, isn't it? The president seems to have a deft touch in appointing to his Cabinet people who have undisguised antipathy for the departments they lead and the Americans those departments are supposed to champion. Think Betsy DeVos, and her dismantling of range of protections, from student disability rights to making it harder for students scammed by for-profit college loan programs to receive loan forgiveness. Think Ben Carson dropping anti-discrimination language from HUD's mission statement, a move he now is rethinking.

Under Tillerson, the U.S. State Department has been gutted by attrition, policy creep and neglect. The push for human rights was sidelined. A dubious reorganization sent long-time professionals of the diplomatic corps out the door.

Tillerson wasn't listening to them, anyway.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo could be good for Trump. He's much more in sync with Trump's hardline views and improvisational policy whims. So whether Pompeo is good for the United States and its position as the democratic standard bearer in the world is an iffier proposition.

(c)2018 *Miami Herald*



Someone in this room is overdrawn

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Last week I finally got around to doing something that I've been meaning to do for about 45 years. I cracked open a novel by Mickey Spillane, a writer in the pulp-fiction end of the private-eye genre.

Spillane was born March 9, 1918, so the 100th anniversary of his birth has just crossed paths with our calendars. Born in Brooklyn, he eventually moved to South Carolina, where he passed away in 2006. It's said that over 200 million copies of his books sold. His claim to fame was a series of novels featuring Mike Hammer, a pugnacious, street-savvy P.I. who was often motivated more by vengeance than money.

When I was a kid, battered old copies of Mike Hammer paperbacks were always making the rounds. I never managed to get my mitts on a copy, though. As soon as somebody had a book to lend, somebody else snapped it up. You'd have better luck catching a neutrino with a baseball mitt than trying to find an unclaimed copy of a Mike Hammer novel.

More recently, the pulp fiction genre in general, and Mickey Spillane's legacy in particular, have gelled into literary lore, part of Americana every bit as much as film noir is. So I wanted to read some Mike Hammer material to see what made it tick and to ponder what accounted for its popularity.

I read three such books, actually, since the modern reprints often come in three-in-one-volumes.

Spillane completed 13 books in the Mike Hammer series. He left behind a number of uncompleted manuscripts that were published after someone else finished writing them. Spillane also wrote books outside of the Mike Hammer series, including a couple of children's books.

I'm no authority on the detective genre, but my take is that it broadly offers a few flavors. One flavor, such as the Mike Hammer series, is fast-moving stories that involve a lot of fights, interactions with seductive damsels, and, well, that's pretty much it: blood and lipstick. So what was the raw appeal to the masses? Hey, I just told you. Raw, indeed.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are the chin-pullers, stories in which intellectual power, not brute force, is on display. There's more thought than action. The caper might even be cracked from the confines of an overstuffed armchair in a well-appointed study.

"Someone in this room," the sleuth will declare to all assembled therein, "is a murderer."

Yeah, and someone else in this room doesn't care. Namely, me. This stuff could never hold my attention. If I want a puzzle to solve from the confines of my study, I'll try to balance my checkbook.

Anyway, back in my beach chair world, where I'm arbitrarily making up literary distinctions, I've got another notion to offer: There's a fertile swath of turf between the blood-and-lipstick fare and the chin-pulling fare. This middle ground is not raw and visceral, but it's not dry and priggish, either.

And here I'll submit that a detective story is often just a convenient way to frame a narrative. After all, a hero has to do something for a living, and needs some excuse to go nose-poking into affairs better left alone. What better excuse than to be a detective, or private eye, or investigator, or even, in the case of John D. MacDonald's Travis McGee series, a "salvage expert" who salvages money that people were swindled out of?

I'll offer that last one as a case in point, since it's the spot in this genre that I'm most familiar with. My motivation for joining McGee on his adventures isn't so I can try to match wits with him and solve the caper before he does. I'm not that ambitious. No, it's because whatever he's up to is more interesting than what I'm up to. That's not a hard standard to meet, I'll admit. Anyway, I also like the way McGee phrases his observations about life. Overall, then, I'm just happy to join him because he's good company.

Would Mike Hammer be good company? The character doesn't really lend itself to that kind of question in these fast-paced novels. Readers join the action to ride along with Hammer during a car chase, not to hear a soliloquy on labor economics.

Me, I'm probably more of a soliloquy guy, but at least I don't have to wonder what I was missing all those years ago when I couldn't get my hands on a Mike Hammer novel. So that's one mystery that has been solved.

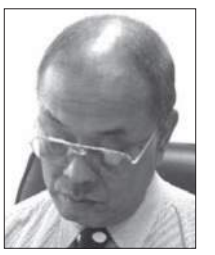
While I'm solving mysteries, I will further practice my detective skills by making a bold accusation:

Someone in this room is going to have a cheeseburger for lunch.

Oh, and fries, too.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Failing fiduciary duty



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

As political pundits size up this year's impending contest, incumbents are nervously inspecting familiar turf where there appears to be drastic changes in the landscape.

Allegations of collusion and suicidal salary increases weren't met with pleasantries among villagers. It's mouthwash turn filthy drool. Bad!

The word perception—how people see you—comes into play. For instance, people talk of the Bloomberg story as though gospel truth. Have you really listened to their sentiments on this and other related issues like violation of laws, predatory hiring and the $14 million fine leveled against several companies here by the U.S. Department of Labor?

How do people see your 80-percent salary hike versus the reaction of 14,000 employees stuck with poverty income and below levels? Isn't the hardship families endure a matter of fiduciary responsibility you should have resolved first and foremost?

How could you have missed difficult situational poverty the direct result of your negligence? What was the primary excuse that you've failed employees by 75 percent? Was there climactic change that disrupted your ability to see issues clearly? Eh, braddah, we for da kine smart too, yeah?

You raised your salaries, ignoring the more than $73 million owed CUC or conveniently overlooked the $14 million in NMI share on Medicaid. Really? Did this negligence contribute to your confused announcement of a surplus? Is it possible to have extras when you owe millions of dollars in debts and obligations?

The heavy negative effects of these tidings are difficult issues for incumbents to dismiss. It turns into five o-clock shadows! Employing another round of fully rehearsed demagoguery isn't going to cut the cake either!

Welcome: Kudos to Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC president, for retaining the services of Mrs. Cindy Guerrero. The latter has one sterling and accomplished career in the education of our children between NMC and PSS. You deserve all the accolades for returning home to NMC. The combined expertise will make NMC's leadership one that truly reflects a "Student First" environment. Again, welcome home, Cindy!

Beast: If anything, the challenge isn't against incumbent Republicans as much as the opposition's ability—Democrats and independents—clamping down on organizational strength to force its nemesis a run for its money. It's all about networking with real focus on telling the truth and speaking the people's language. Otherwise, kiss the impending contest adios.

With real organization, the battle may be halfway through. The narrative is easy to pull and use against the GOP focusing on poor performance. Unfortunately, the incumbent turns into an open target that any Tom, Dick and Harry could shoot without aiming. But you can't ignore the fact that it has the resources poised to use to the hilt.

On the campaign trail, voters would gauge incumbents on level of perception, conviction, commitment and whether they are still a part of your negligent equation. A few words should settle the score if your sorry story reaches any level of credibility. Difficult!

Redundancy: A new political status commission was formed and assigned to review relations with the federal government, including the views of the people on status.

The review of relations is a Section 902 obligation under U.S. Public Law 94-241. The view of the people would require a plebiscite. Assuming that the people wanted something other than what's under the current agreement, how does the commission plan to fulfill it? Would not this point to Covenant Section 101 where we gave up sovereignty?

You see, when we gave up sovereignty we automatically fell under the national government. Our decision on status is found in what's known as the Covenant Agreement or U.S.P.L. 94-241. It means amending it.

The chance of succeeding is very thin. If you will, 2018 marks the 72nd year that Puerto Rico has sought statehood from the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Congress isn't smiling, so imagine our wishy-washy aspiration making it through.

The refinement of relations is under Section 902 or legal protocol to engage in healthy discussion with Washington. Would D.C. ever accept official talks with the new commission? We'd be a laughingstock for purposeful omission of Sections 902 and 101.

Casino: Should the island allow for another casino that grants the local people participation in the gaming industry? Other than the annual earmark, what else do we get from the casino business here?

Have we taxed at least a portion of the billions of dollars it rakes in per month before their repatriation to Hong Kong and China? Or are we just cogs in this form of investment of apparent exclusion? Has the trickle down effect on services for the casino helped our people? We fail to tax it yet work up the courage to ask D.C. for more money?

There are six casino operators in Macau and some CEOs are urging the local government to open at least three more that would allow local participation. It's an interesting view but one that I could understand. I think it's an issue of assimilation into something that is a permanent part of a community. So where is the beginning of fostering lasting partnership with investors?

Shortage: GovGuam is struggling hard to find some $67 million chopped by the Trump tax reduction program. It has looked into combining tax increase and reduction in the size of all branches of GovGuam but both measures came up short.

Troubling too our own cumulative deficit of some $1.6 billion. It simply means strengthening fiscal responsibility, steering clear of the habit of loosely encumbering additional expenditure beyond our means. It's time to stop passing these costs to taxpayers where we blindly pay for political excess baggage.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

The Crippled Curves of *Trumpery Time

"Everybody has a right to be stupid, but some people abuse the privilege."

—Joseph Stalin, d. 03/05/1953.

Moments of calm before tweeting about the Bomb
Seconds tick by filled with dreck from Tweety guy
Minutes of meetings no attention paid while tweeting
Hours of agony WH staff explains off-the-cuff stuff
Noon lunch break four diet sodas bag of cheese puffs
Days of disaster rats abandon ship faster and faster
Weekends on the golf course putt putt 45 getting worse
Weeks of wrath Mueller indicts & subpoenas do the math
Months of misery for the nation, truth becomes mystery
New Years eve in the land of the free, sad night ‹believe me›
Years of pain from incompetent judges insane to complain
Decades of despair from promises that lead to nowhere
Half a century appears grandchildren pay our deficit arrears
Turn back the clock! End our *trumpery tweeter shock.

The word 'trumpery' means worthless nonsense.

A Sad and Mad Tweeting Cad

You're just so obstinate ornery and mean
sometimes those insults get ugly and obscene
you've lied so much you don't know what's true
can't stand it when someone's critical of you.

As you were busy tweeting about being 'sad'
thinking people knew you were raving mad
eventually your arrogant heart takes notice
the country is 'sad' about the 45th POTUS.

Your latest is sitting with arms tightly folded
like a childhood bully who has just been scolded
and then never opening your daily intel packet
looks like you can't get out of a straight jacket.

Try to focus on our nations serious problems first
before giving in to your next tweet tantrum burst.

Marching is great, but voting is even greater

By DAVE HELLING
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Last Wednesday hundreds of students gathered on the steps of the Kansas Capitol, urging lawmakers to stiffen the state's gun laws.

"Protect kids, not guns," one sign said. "March for our lives," said another.

The very next day, the Kansas Senate met to debate several gun control measures. Senators rejected more than half a dozen amendments designed to reduce gun violence, including a waiting period for gun purchases and a ban on bump stocks, which turn some weapons into more efficient killing machines.

It was a pretty good lesson for the students, and for all of us. Lawmakers, it turns out, don't listen to their constituents all that much.

That isn't what we, or they, were taught in the classroom. Most Americans believe legislators react to letters, phone calls, protests, town halls, even editorials—and can be convinced to change their minds.

That can be true at the city council level, or the school board, which are mostly non-partisan bodies. Phone calls had an impact on the airport debate in Kansas City, for example. Sometimes, not always, local politicians adjust their votes.

But at higher levels—the statehouse, or Congress—elected officials now almost always vote their own views, usually with their political party. They're confident the electorate will forget, or not be bothered to judge politicians on what they actually do.

Guns are a good example. Polls suggest virtually every American supports enhanced background checks for gun purchases., yet Congress has yet to approve them.

The U.S. House did pass a bill promising to spend a whopping $50 million a year to improve school security. That's about $500 per public school.

The only way to change government is to change the people sent there. Convincing them to change their minds is virtually impossible.

We have some experience with that phenomenon in Kansas.

Former Gov. Sam Brownback was convinced for years that his 2013 tax cuts would rejuvenate the state's economy. His allies in the state legislature stubbornly stuck to that script, despite overwhelming evidence the tax cuts were a failure.

That all changed in 2017, largely because Kansans sent new legislators to Topeka. Those lawmakers understood the depth of the state's budget crisis, and responded accordingly.

The fact that lawmakers don't listen to constituents can be disheartening. Thousands of students will gather Saturday to push for gun legislation. It's frustrating to think those protests probably won't move the legislative needle this year.

But activism still has great value. If the students and their allies continue to work hard—and enlist others in their cause—that enthusiasm can be transferred to the voting booth this November.

And if enough people cast ballots, members of Congress who resist gun legislation won't be a problem. They won't be able to stand in the doorway, or block up the halls.

The debate over whether an elected leader should vote their judgment, or reflect their constituents' views, is one of the oldest issues in politics.

"Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion," Edmund Burke said in the late 1700s.

Wow. Burke would feel quite at home in the current environment.

He also offers a framework for the 2018 midterm elections: If you oppose your representative's judgment, you can't expect to change his or her mind.

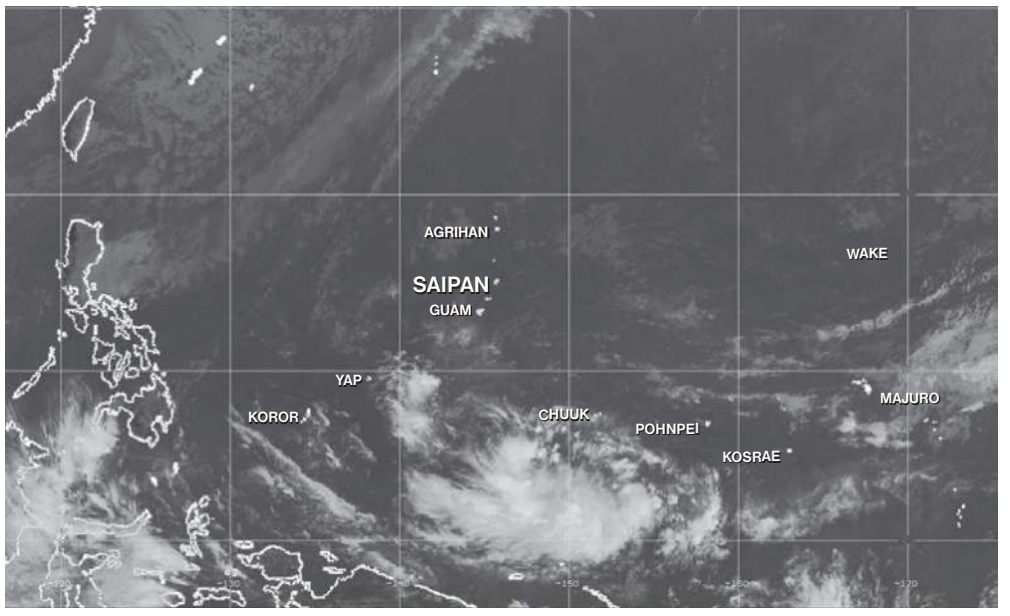
You'll have to vote for someone else.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 22 , 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Not much change for the next few days as the dry weather pattern continues into the weekend. There is the potential for a little more cloudiness on Friday. As a tropical disturbance, currently southwest of Chuuk moves by south of Guam over the weekend the majority of the rain associated with the system will stay to the south. However, guidance still suggests that some showers could make it to Guam Monday or Tuesday. Still have time to refine the forecast as those days approach. Also expect breezy conditions centered around Monday due to increase pressure gradient.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	70° / 37°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	70° / 63°
Honolulu	Cloudy	81° / 72°
London	Cloudy	54° / 39°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	67° / 51°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	79° / 66°
Miami	Sunny	73° / 64°
New York	Partly Cloudy	45° / 31°
Osaka	Sunny	57° / 43°
Paris	Showers	46° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	59° / 41°
Rome	Sunny	55° / 34°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	66° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	53° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	57° / 39°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61° / 43°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	44° / 27°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:39 AM	LOW TIDE	0.92
11:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
6:22 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.02
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:36 am	11:46 pm	-
Saturday	11:31 am	-	-
Sunday	-	12:45 am	12:28 pm
Monday	-	1:44 am	1:28 pm
Tuesday	-	2:40 am	2:28 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Tan Holdings

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-003

LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of a lift station and forcemain, a new generator building, new and tapping into the existing forcemain. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, gate valves, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 3rd, 2018 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-003, Lower Base Sewer Phase 1- Lift Station and Forcemain"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18th, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 5th, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cugov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-015

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space may be situated within or adjacent to the warehouse. The office & warehouse must have a loading dock and parking stalls that can accommodate over-sized heavy equipment (e. g. bucket trucks, augers and backhoes). Additionally, the proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-18-015, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. Proponents shall comply to all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 28, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Acting Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org, Adrian Reyes, CUC, Power Division Engineer via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Business

Facebook's Zuckerberg apologizes for 'major breach of trust'

NEW YORK (AP)—Breaking five days of silence, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg apologized for a "major breach of trust," admitted mistakes and outlined steps to protect user data in light of a privacy scandal involving a Trump-connected data-mining firm.

"I am really sorry that happened," Zuckerberg said of the scandal involving data mining firm Cambridge Analytica. Facebook has a "responsibility" to protect its users' data, he said in a Wednesday interview on CNN. If it fails, he said, "we don't deserve to have the opportunity to serve people."

Zuckerberg

His mea culpa on cable television came a few hours after he acknowledged his company's mistakes in a Facebook post , but without saying he was sorry.

Zuckerberg and Facebook's No. 2 executive, Sheryl Sandberg, had been quiet since news broke Friday that Cambridge may have used data improperly obtained from roughly 50 million Facebook users to try to sway elections. Cambridge's clients included Donald Trump's general-election campaign.

Facebook shares have dropped some 8 percent, lopping about $46 billion off the company's market value, since the revelations were first published.

In the CNN interview, Zuckerberg offered equivocal and carefully hedged answers to two other questions. He said, for instance, that he would be "happy" to testify before Congress, but only if it was "the right thing to do." He went on to note that many other Facebook officials might be more appropriate witnesses depending on what Congress wanted to know.

Similarly, the Facebook chief seemed at one point to favor regulation for Facebook and other internet giants—at least the "right" kind of rules, he said, such as ones that require online political ads to disclose who paid for them. In almost the next breath, however, Zuckerberg steered clear of endorsing a bill that would write such rules into federal law, and instead talked up Facebook's own voluntary efforts on that front.

Even before the scandal broke, Facebook has already taken the most important steps to prevent a recurrence, Zuckerberg said. For example, in 2014, it reduced access outside apps had to user data. However, some of the measures didn't take effect until a year later, allowing Cambridge to access the data in the intervening months.

Zuckerberg acknowledged that there is more to do.

In his Facebook post, Zuckerberg said it will ban developers who don't agree to an audit. An app's developer will no longer have access to data from people who haven't used that app in three months. Data will also be generally limited to user names, profile photos and email, unless the developer signs a contract with Facebook and gets user approval.

In a separate post, Facebook said it will inform people whose data was misused by apps. Facebook first learned of this breach of privacy more than two years ago, but hadn't mentioned it publicly until Friday.

The company said it was "building a way" for people to know if their data was accessed by "This Is Your Digital Life," the psychological-profiling quiz app that researcher Aleksandr Kogan created and paid about 270,000 people to take part in. Cambridge Analytica later obtained information from the app for about 50 million Facebook users, as the app also vacuumed up data on people's friends—including those who never downloaded the app or gave explicit consent.

Chris Wylie, a Cambridge co-founder who left in 2014, has said one of the firm's goals was to influence people's perceptions by injecting content, some misleading or false, all around them. It's not clear whether Facebook would be able to tell users whether they had seen such content.

Cambridge has shifted the blame to Kogan, which the firm described as a contractor. Kogan described himself as a scapegoat.

Kogan, a psychology researcher at Cambridge University, told the BBC that both Facebook and Cambridge Analytica have tried to place the blame on him, even though the firm ensured him that everything he did was legal.

"One of the great mistakes I did here was I just didn't ask enough questions," he said. "I had never done a commercial project. I didn't really have any reason to doubt their sincerity. That's certainly something I strongly regret now."

He said the firm paid some $800,000 for the work, but it went to participants in the survey.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-005

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK AND TELEMEDICINE EQUIPMENT

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK AND TELEMEDICINE EQUIPMENT.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, MARCH 02, 2018 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., APRIL 02, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-005 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for in part by Federal Funds through the USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program.

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

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Nation

Police: Bomber's video amounts to confession, but no motive

PFLUGERVILLE, Texas (AP)—A 25-minute cellphone video left behind by the bomber whose deadly explosives terrorized Austin for weeks details the differences among the weapons he built and amounts to a confession, police said. But his motive remains a mystery.

Conditt

Mark Anthony Conditt, an unemployed college dropout who bought bomb-making materials at Home Depot, recorded the video hours before he died after detonating one of his own devices as SWAT teams closed in. It seemed to indicate the 23-year-old knew he was about to be caught, said Austin Police Chief Brian Manley.

"It is the outcry of a very challenged young man talking about challenges in his own life," Manley said of the recording, which authorities declined to release amid the ongoing investigation.

■■■

A 23-year-old suspected of planting deadly bombs that struck fear across Austin was described Wednesday by his uncle as a smart and kind "computer geek" and a friend said he was an assertive person who would end up being "kind of dominant and intimidating in conversation."

Neither had any idea what might have motivated Mark Anthony Conditt, who authorities say died after detonating a bomb in his sport utility vehicle as officers moved in for an arrest near Austin. The attacks in the Texas capital and suburban San Antonio killed two people and wounded four others.

"I mean this is coming from nowhere. We just don't know what. I don't know how many ways to say it but everyone is caught off guard by this," Conditt's uncle, Mike Courtney of Lakewood, Colorado, told The Associated Press.

■■■

At a news conference Wednesday evening, Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said he considers a 25-minute recording on a cellphone found with Conditt a "confession," in which Conditt talks in great detail about the differences among the bombs he built.

Conditt was tracked down using store surveillance video, cellphone signals and witness accounts of a customer shipping packages in a disguise that included a blond wig and gloves. Police finally found him early Wednesday at a hotel in a suburb north of Austin.

Officers prepared to move in for an arrest. When the suspect's sport utility vehicle began to drive away, they followed. Conditt ran into a ditch on the side of the road, and SWAT officers approached, banging on his window.

Within seconds, the suspect had detonated a bomb inside his vehicle, blasting the officers backward, Manley said. One officer then fired his weapon at Conditt, the chief said. The medical examiner has not finalized the cause of death, but the bomb caused "significant" injuries, he said.

Law enforcement officials did not immediately say whether Conditt acted alone in the five bombings in the Texas capital and suburban San Antonio that killed two people and badly wounded four others. Fred Milanowski of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said investigators were confident that "the same person built each one of these devices."

Investigators released few details about Conditt, except his age and that he was white. Neighbors say he was homeschooled. He later attended Austin Community College from 2010 to 2012, according to a college spokeswoman, but he did not graduate.

In a 2012 online blog that the college spokeswoman said Conditt created as part of a U.S. government class project, he gives his opinion on several issues, often in response to someone else's commentary. Conditt wrote that gay marriage should be illegal, argued in favor of the death penalty and gave his thoughts on "why we might want to consider" eliminating sex offender registries.

In the "about me" section of the blog, Conditt wrote that he wasn't "that politically inclined" but did view himself as conservative.

Jay Schulze, who lives in Pflugerville, said he was jogging Tuesday night when he was stopped by police and asked about the bombings. He said police flew drones over Conditt's home for about six hours between Tuesday evening and early Wednesday morning.

Schulze described the home as "a weird house with a lot of people coming and going" and a bit rundown.

A neighbor who watched Conditt grow up said he always seemed smart and polite. Jeff Reeb said he has lived next to Conditt's parents for about 17 years and described them as good neighbors. Conditt had visited his parents regularly, he said.

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CPA-RFP-004-18

JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR NON-RESTRICTED AREAS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & COMMUTER TERMINAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Janitorial Services for the Saipan International Airport and Commuter Terminal Non-Restricted Areas.

The proposal package containing the scope of work and other considerations of the proposal is available beginning February 23, 2018 from 0800 hours a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Accounting Department Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, at the Saipan International Airport upon the payment of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00). This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Interested proposers must submit one original and three copies of their sealed proposal before 4:00 p.m., March 23, 2018, to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals shall be sealed and marked: ***"Janitorial Services for non-restricted areas, Saipan International Airport & Commuter Terminal, Project No. CPA-RFP-004-18" CONFIDENTIAL.***

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified bidders to submit their bids for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EIGHT (8) A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-18.**

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2018**, at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of replacement of eight (8) air-conditioning units located at the Saipan International Air Terminals. Procurement includes removal and disposal of existing units scheduled for replacement.

The Project is being funded by Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for installation of eight units shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages shall be imposed in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** per day if the commissioning of the A/C units is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-26 of the specifications. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Non-Collusive Affidavit" and "Designation of Subcontractors" as contained in the bid documents, with the submission of the Bid.

Bids and contract documents including specifications may be obtained at the Accounting Department Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, beginning February 23, 2018 upon the payment of **FIFTY DOLLARS ($50.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

There is no pre-bid conference for this project. Bidders will be responsible for scheduling a site inspection with CPA.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening.

Each bid shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either bid bond from a CPA approved listed surety company, a certified check or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:
/s/ EDWARD B. MENDIOLA
Acting Executive Director
Date: March 20, 2018

Asia

NKorean sanctions evasions reveal HK's middleman role

HONG KONG (AP)—In the dead of night last month, two tanker ships pulled alongside each other in the East China Sea. One was a North Korean vessel, the other was the Belize-flagged Wan Heng 11.

Lights on both ships were blazing, arousing a Japanese spy plane's suspicion they were carrying out a "ship-to-ship" transfer banned under United Nations sanctions imposed over North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Records for the Wan Heng and a number of other ships identified in recent U.N. and U.S. sanctions blacklists and Japanese surveillance reports reveal ties to Hong Kong through front companies based here. The findings underscore rising concern over the southern Chinese financial capital's role as a nexus for North Korea's underground business network, which has led the U.S. government to urge Hong Kong authorities to crack down.

The corporate registration agents that set up these front companies "present a key vulnerability in the implementation of financial sanctions," said a report by the United Nations Panel of Experts on North Korean sanctions released on March 16. Researchers say North Korea relies on front companies acting as middlemen to mask its overseas trading links, many of which involve China.

Successively tighter rounds of sanctions aim to deprive North Korea of key sources of revenue by choking off its ability to smuggle exports, including through oil transfers between ships on the high seas.

Hong Kong, an Asian business hub, is "staying highly vigilant about activities and suspected cases" of sanctions violations and is "looking into the cases" involving Hong Kong-registered companies, the government said in a statement.

The city often tops business and economic freedom rankings, based on criteria that include ease of setting up business. That can also facilitate illicit dealings.

The city hosts a vast industry of company formation experts who can register corporations quickly and with minimum information from their clients. Many operate out of anonymous, one-room offices with as little as a single employee. They promise to set up a firm within a day for clients who can apply online if they're not in Hong Kong.

ASIAN BRIEFS

IS suicide bomber kills 33 as Afghans celebrate new year

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Islamic State group suicide bomber struck on the road to a Shiite shrine in Afghanistan's capital on Wednesday, killing at least 33 people as Afghans celebrated the Persian new year, authorities said. Wahid Majro, spokesman for The Public Health Ministry, said 65 others were wounded in the attack, which was carried out by a bomber on foot. IS claimed responsibility in an online statement, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites. The group said the attack targeted "a gathering of Shiites celebrating Nowruz." The Persian new year, known in Afghanistan as Nowruz, is a national holiday, and the country's minority Shiites typically celebrate by visiting shrines. The Sunni extremists of IS have repeatedly targeted Shiites, who they view as apostates deserving of death. The attack took place near Kabul University and a government hospital, around one kilometer (mile) away from the Sakhi shrine, where people were gathered to celebrate the new year, said Gen. Daud Amin, Kabul's police chief. Daud said the attacker managed to slip past police checkpoints set up along the road. He said an investigation into the security breach is underway, and that anyone found to have neglected his duties would be punished.

2 US tourists die in helicopter crash on Great Barrier Reef

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—A helicopter carrying American tourists crashed at a coral-viewing site on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, killing two passengers from Hawaii and injuring two others from Colorado, police said. The helicopter pilot pulled one passenger from the wreckage after Wednesday's crash but desperate attempts to revive the 65-year-old woman failed, Police Inspector Ian Haughton said Thursday. A 79-year-old man also died despite bystanders' attempts to resuscitate him, Haughton said. A 34-year-old man and a 33-year-old woman were taken to the Australian mainland for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, he said. All four tourists knew each other. The five-seat, single-engine Eurocopter EC120 Colibri crashed 65 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of the Whitsunday Islands near a pontoon that has underwater viewing chambers to see coral and is a popular tourist destination.

13 holiday hikers rescued from snowy Tokyo mountain

TOKYO (AP)—Thirteen holiday hikers, reportedly including Chinese citizens, have been rescued after getting trapped overnight on a snowy Tokyo mountain trail. They spent the night on one of the mountains in the Okutama region, Tokyo's popular hiking area. The group included teens and people in their 40s. Tokyo police and disaster officials said Thursday that seven of them who couldn't walk were airlifted. Six others hiked down escorted by rescue workers. Officials say some of those airlifted have been injured, though their condition was not life-threatening. Holidaymakers were hit by unanticipated snow in Tokyo on Wednesday, days after the start of a cherry blossom season was announced. Local media say the group, which included four Chinese, reported to a local fire department Wednesday night, requesting their rescue.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST
Re-Announcement # JVA18-24

DUTIES: The successful candidate will monitor and supervise participants for the CNMI Drug Court. The compliance specialist will work directly with men and women who have substance abuse addictions and will report to Drug Court Manager and Court regarding participant compliance in the program. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provides assistance to the Drug Court Manager in monitoring participants;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for court appearance in drug court hearing;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual drug court cases from resource areas including, as necessary, participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc;
- Contacts public and private community resources to secure services for participants. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationships with the agencies as necessary;
- Coordinates enforcement of drug court orders including curfews and home detention with CNMI Drug Court Probation Officer and Law Enforcement Officers;
- Maintains contact with local law enforcement agencies, Drug Court Judge, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, employers, local social service agencies, schools and others;
- Coordinates investigations in preparation of court-ordered reports staffing and hearings;
- Maintains case records and statistical data for evaluation purposes and for submission to the Drug Court Manager;
- Attends and participates in Drug Court staffings and hearings;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conferences, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Works closely with Drug Court Caseworkers to support case management, coordination of services and monitoring;
- Conducts gender-specific observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained an associate's degree from a recognized college or university in criminal or behavioral science or related field. Have four (4) years experience in the law enforcement or other related experience.

Applicant must have a professional demeanor and be able to exercise good judgment in stressful situations. The ability to maintain client confidentiality at all times is imperative. Report writing skills and case management experience would be preferred. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Criminal record check will be conducted. Drug test designated position.

Have a valid driver's license and be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel; must be knowledgeable about the use of data systems.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $25,000 - $28,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Re-announcement # JVA18-25
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 - $22,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

World

Peru president undone by corruption scandals he vowed to end

LIMA, Peru (AP)—He took office in 2016 as a political outsider boasting that his strong business credentials would buoy Peru's economy while sweeping away endemic corruption. But with his offer of resignation, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski joins a long list of recent Peruvian presidents undone by scandals that have destroyed voters' trust in their elected officials.

Kuczynski

Kuczynski, flanked by his cabinet, announced his decision to resign Wednesday in a nationally televised address, accusing opponents led by the daughter of former strongman Alberto Fujimori of plotting his overthrow for months and making it impossible to govern.

Shortly after, he exited the back door of the baroque presidential palace built by Spanish conquerors and was driven off, all alone, in an SUV.

Congress was expected to vote Thursday to accept his resignation, or if not, to impeach him.

It was an ignominious end to a presidency that started with the highest of expectations.

When Kuczynski, a former Wall Street investor, was elected in 2016, he was immediately thrust to the helm of a conservative revival in South America. Voters had grown tired of once-dominant leftist governments marred by corruption and blamed for squandering a decade-long commodities boom that had ended abruptly.

At home, he promised an investment windfall from old business buddies in the U.S., where he lived for decades and met his current and former American wives. He also surprised many by speaking out forcefully against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and leading a coalition of like-minded leaders to isolate the socialist leader for human rights abuses.

But the 79-year-old was hobbled almost immediately out of the gate. His self-tailored party, named for his own PPK initials, won just 18 seats in the 130-member congress. And instead of courting supporters on the left who pushed him to victory by a razor-thin margin over opponent Keiko Fujimori, he tried in vain to form an alliance with the former strongman's power-hungry, vindictive allies. Aides privately complained of stubbornness and political naiveté.

"When Kuczynski came in, everyone hailed him as Peru's salvation," said Laura Sharkey, a Bogota-based analyst at Control Risks consultancy. "But he just completely underestimated the strength of the opposition."

Even on the economy, his strong suit, Kuczynski fell short, as growth has slowed and promised mining and infrastructure projects never got off the ground.

What most outraged voters, however, was his seeming dishonesty, something that has long dominated Peruvian politics and he had vowed to end.

For months, as three of his predecessors were probed and one even jailed for taking bribes from Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht, Kuczynski steadfastly denied having any business or political ties with the company at the heart of Latin America's biggest graft scandal.

Then, Fujimori's party produced confidential bank documents from Odebrecht showing $780,000 in decade-old payments to his consulting firm. Kuczynski said he had no knowledge of the payments that overlapped with his years as a government minister and said that in any case had paid taxes on all of his earnings.

Syrian rebels to evacuate opposition-held town in Ghouta

BEIRUT (AP)—Hundreds of armed rebels and civilians will begin evacuating a besieged town in eastern Ghouta, a rebel spokesman and Syrian government media reported Wednesday, in the first instance of fighters leaving the opposition stronghold east of the capital following a deal reached with the government.

Monther Fares, a spokesman for the powerful Ahrar al-Sham group, said the deal involves the departure starting Thursday morning of opposition fighters from his group to northern Syria. He said the deal negotiated with the government gives security guarantees for those who decide to stay in the town after the government takes over.

The Syria-controlled Military Media Center said 1,500 armed rebels and 6,000 civilians will evacuate Harasta on Thursday to the northern province of Idlib as part of a negotiated deal. The Ahrar al-Sham group, headquartered in Harasta, is the smallest of the rebel groups that control eastern Ghouta.

It is the first such deal involving the evacuation of opposition fighters from eastern Ghouta, which has been under a ferocious government air and ground assault for a month.

Fares said rebels have agreed to leave because of "civilian pressure" resulting from intensive airstrikes and "warplanes that do not leave the sky," adding that residents of Harasta have spent the last three months inside shelters. He said Russia, a military backer of President Bashar Assad, was the guarantor of the deal.

In other parts of Syria, government forces have also pressed the rebels to enter into local cease-fire agreements under which the militants and their families would relocate to other parts of the country. The Syrian opposition has criticized such agreements, saying they reward the government's siege tactics and legitimize the forced displacement of civilians from their homes.

Syrian government forces have chipped away at the sprawling rebel enclave of eastern Ghouta, seizing more than 70 percent of the territory since Feb. 18. The assault has displaced 45,000 people, according to the United Nations. Before the latest offensive, it was estimated that 400,000 people were trapped in the besieged region.

Eastern Ghouta was one of the hubs of the civil uprising against Assad's government in 2011, which was to be eclipsed by a violent crackdown by the security services and subsequent armed revolt.

Palestinian leaders health scares spark succession talk

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—A series of recent health scares have raised new concerns about octogenarian President Mahmoud Abbas, reviving anxiety about a potentially chaotic, and even bloody, succession battle that is bound to further weaken the Palestinian cause.

In the latest sign of Abbas' health troubles, officials and medical sources say a cardiologist has moved into the presidential compound in Ramallah to monitor the longtime leader.

The move follows a mysterious hospital visit in the United States after Abbas appeared weak in an address to the United Nations Security Council.

Abbas, a heavy smoker with long-standing heart problems who turns 83 next week, insists he is fine. But after more than a decade of avoiding discussion of the post-Abbas era, Palestinian officials acknowledge that they are concerned, and potential successors are quietly jockeying for position.

The topic of succession has been taboo in Palestinian official circles since Abbas took office 14 years ago. Abbas took over as a caretaker leader following the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in 2004, and was elected for what was supposed to be a five-year term the following year. He has remained in firm control since then, refusing to designate a successor while a political split with rival Hamas prevented new elections.

Abbas has a long history of health issues, ranging from his heart troubles to a bout with prostate cancer a decade ago. Last summer, he underwent a health checkup at a Ramallah hospital and separately, dispelled rumors he had suffered a stroke. Two years ago, he underwent an emergency heart procedure after suffering exhaustion and chest pains. He suffers from arterial plaque and has had stents implanted.

Concerns deepened after Abbas' Feb. 20 appearance before the U.N. Security Council, where he appeared to struggle for breath at times.

After the speech, he traveled to Baltimore for a series of tests at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Feeling fatigued, Abbas then decided to return to the West Bank rather than continue on to Venezuela, as initially planned, according to three Abbas aides who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are under strict orders not to discuss his health.

†ROY DIAZ RECHEBEI

AUGUST 23, 1974 – MARCH 11, 2018

A **Memorial Service** for

†Roy Diaz Rechebei

will be held at the
Borja Funeral Service
Divine Mercy Chapel,
Chalan Kanoa
Saturday, March 24, 2018
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Si Yu'us Ma'åsi',
Kom Kmal Mesulang, Thank You

Ramon and Elizabeth D. Rechebei,
Rowena R. Camacho, and Family

Off The Wall

Ax throwing gains popularity as pastime, sport

NEW YORK (AP)—Leave it to the hipsters of Brooklyn to combine craft beer and sharp objects.

Kick Axe Throwing is the first bar in New York City to pick up on a nationwide trend of ax throwing, a growing sport that some enthusiasts hope will take off the way bowling did in the last century.

"People are like, 'Sharp objects and beer? What a great idea that is.' But truthfully, after you have a couple drinks you start to actually throw a little bit better," said Alexander Stine, an "axepert" at Kick Axe. He honed his own skills growing up in Colorado throwing knives at carnivals and now trains newcomers on proper technique. "It's about believing in your ability to do something you didn't think you could do before."

Scoring is similar to darts. Players aim at a wooden board painted with a bull's-eye and rings corresponding to different point values.

Playing to the sport's origins at Canadian logging competitions, Kick Axe's decor is reminiscent of a ski lodge, complete with flannel chairs and calfskin carpeting.

The perimeter of the venue is lined with cages for throwing. There's a bar serving wine and beer, but no hard liquor. Guests can take a break from throwing axes to play board games like "Candy Land" at tables in the center of the room.

While Kick Axe mainly caters to casual players, there are locations across the country where enthusiasts play the sport competitively.

There was no alcohol in sight during recent tournament play at Chicago's Bad Axe Throwing, a Canada-based chain of 18 venues.

Bad Axe's CEO, Mario Zelaya, founded the World Axe Throwing League a year ago. He said it now has 2,500 members worldwide who compete at his own locations and other independent venues.

"It's bowling 2.0," said Zelaya. "What bowling maybe used to be in the 80's and 90's and this is what ax throwing is right now. It's fun. It's new. It's addictive. It's active entertainment."

In this March 3, 2018, photo, an "axepert," center, gives contestants instruction on hatchet throwing techniques and the rules of the game at the Kick Axe Throwing venue in the Brooklyn borough of New York. AP

†Benjamin Basa Magofña

Lovingly known as "Ben" "Benji" or "Bengbeng"

Was born on July 12, 1986 and went to his new home to meet our Lord on March 19, 2018 at the age of 31.

In his new home, Ben will be greeted and reunited with his:

Maternal Grandparents: †Gregorio Blas Baza & †Felisa Chargualaf Baza

Paternal Grandparents: †Antonio Babauta Magofña & †Martha Sablan Cabrera

Ben's laughter, pleasant personality and loving memories will forever be in the hearts and treasured by his:

Fiancée/Common-law wife: Laschan Villagomez Sablan

Parents: Jessica Chargualaf Basa
Antonio Cabrera Magofña & Lina Santos Magofña

In-laws: Gregorio and Elena Sablan

Godparents: Manny & Angie Mangarero
John & Viola Deleon Guerrero

Siblings: Vera Basa and Robert Lieto & Children;
Anthony and Cristina Magofña & Children;
Jamila Magofña and Lushawn Reyes & Children;
Tisha Magofña and Sean Marciano & Children;
Tonnya Magofña and Francis Deleon Guerrero;
Trinidad Magofña and Aurel Mendiola and Children;
Susan Rios and Jay Aldan & Children;
Giovanni Rios;
Austin Rios; and
Dustin Rios

Step Maternal Grandmother: Antonia Aguon Santos

Ben is also loved and cherished by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Daily masses of intention are offered at 6:00 a.m. and rosary is prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Ben will be with us for the last time on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 and visitation and last respects are welcomed beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately with interment at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Your thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay,
Kom Kmal Mesulang, Thank you!

THE FAMILY

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away."

Revelation 21:4

It's a hit! Brewers re-enact 'The Sandlot' in video clip

By JOSE M. ROMERO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX (AP)—Even before the start of the season, the Milwaukee Brewers have their first hit.

Milwaukee released a 2-minute, 35-second video celebrating the 25th anniversary of the movie "The Sandlot" last weekend, featuring Brewers players dressed as characters from the film reciting the movie's lines.

Hank, the dog who is Milwaukee's mascot, played The Beast—a ferocious dog in the movie that the kids were frightened of when they went to retrieve home run balls. Hank is a cuddly white mixed-breed whom the Brewers adopted as a pup during spring training in 2014.

"It's probably my all-time favorite baseball movie," said infielder Eric Sogard, who with the spectacles he often wears was asked to play the role of Michael "Squints" Palledorous. "Anytime that movie's on, I love watching it. Squints, man, I play wearing glasses, so I feel like that nickname has been thrown around at me every once in a while."

"The Sandlot" is about an adult reminiscing on his younger days playing ball with his friends in an empty lot and the baseball history they learned.

"We had a blast doing it," said catcher Stephen Vogt, who played the role of the portly Hamilton "Ham" Porter. "It's pretty cool to hear from people that they enjoyed it, and that's kind of why we did it, was to make people smile and make people laugh."

Caitlin Moyer, the Brewers' director of new media, said Vogt helped direct.

"He really took ownership of it," Moyer said. "He was that passionate about the movie."

Outfielder Christian Yelich, acquired from Miami during the offseason, played the true baseball talent in the movie, Benny "The Jet" Rodriguez. Other Brewers in the video included outfielder Brett Phillips, pitchers Chase Anderson, Josh Hader and Jeremy Jeffress, catcher Jett Bandy and utility player Hernan Perez.

Austrian fined for calling police officers 'smurfs'

BERLIN (AP)—An Austrian man faces a 160-euro ($197) fine for describing police officers as "smurfs" in a warning about speed checks posted on Facebook.

The Austria Press Agency reported Tuesday that authorities in Tyrol province imposed the fine on the man, whose name wasn't released, for violating "public decency" by "defaming two police officers."

The man's post in a Facebook group alerted others to "two smurfs standing with lasers" on a local highway. A police officer who was also in the group filed a complaint.

The local Tiroler Tageszeitung newspaper reported that the man maintains the term "smurfs" was meant as a harmless joke rather than an insult, and plans to defend himself at regional police headquarters.

Science & Technology

Facebook: A community like no other. Should you leave it?

NEW YORK (AP)—Sure. Take that quiz about which hair-metal band is your spirit animal. Share a few snaps of your toddler at the beach and watch the likes pile up. Comment on that pointed political opinion from the classmate you haven't seen since the Reagan administration.

Just remember that your familiar, comforting online neighborhood—the people you care about most and those you only kinda like—exists entirely on a corporate planet that's endlessly ravenous to know more about you and yours.

On a day when our virtual friends wrung their virtual hands about whether to leave Facebook, a thoroughly 21st-century conundrum was hammered home: When your community is a big business, and when a company's biggest business is your community, things can get very messy.

You saw that all day Tuesday as users watched the saga of Cambridge Analytica unfold and contemplated whether the chance that they had been manipulated again—that their data might have been used to influence an election—was, finally, reason enough to bid Facebook goodbye.

Not an easy choice. After all, how would Mom see photos of the kids?

"Part of me wants Facebook to go down over the Cambridge Analytica scandal but the other part of me has no other way to know when any of my friends or family have a birthday," Chicago Tribune humorist Rex Huppke tweeted Tuesday—and cross-posted on Facebook.

Facebook, which began as a social network for college students and the academic community, has experienced exodus before, albeit usually more gradually.

Young people have edged away from it in favor of other platforms such as Snapchat, WhatsApp and Instagram (the latter two are owned by Facebook now), and many maintain a presence but use it rarely. Internationally, while Facebook remains widespread, insurgent social networks built around messaging, such as Line in Japan and Thailand, WeChat in China and KakaoTalk in South Korea, have supplanted it.

TECH Q & A

Browser slows due to mysterious memory use

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: For the last couple of weeks, my Windows 10 PC has typed very slowly in Microsoft Word, Gmail, Google Docs and Google Sheets. There is sometimes a lag of 30 to 40 seconds before what I'm typing "catches up" and appears on the screen. I mostly use Google's Chrome browser.

I've attached the Windows Task Manager list of "processes" running on the PC. What's wrong?

A: Your Chrome browser is using more RAM (computer chip) memory than it should be, and that can slow down browser-based online programs such as Gmail, Google Docs and Google Sheets. The more important question is: Why is Chrome doing this?

Chrome uses more memory than other browsers. It was designed that way to insulate simultaneous browser activities, such as Gmail, Google Docs and web browsing, from each other. As a result, a crash in one activity shouldn't cause you to lose data in another.

But on your PC, Chrome has gone beyond its normal healthy appetite for RAM memory to exhibit suspicious behavior.

Your Task Manager list shows 11 different copies of the Google Chrome browser running (there should be only one copy of the program running; a sub menu should show that the one copy is using half a dozen simultaneous processes to display a single open web page.)

These multiple copies of Chrome are collectively using nearly 700 megabytes of RAM memory.

That's more than double the amount of RAM that a single copy of Chrome normally uses to display one website. And it's nearly five times more RAM than is being used by any other single program running on your PC.

This could be caused by several things:

How you use Chrome: If you open a new copy of Chrome every time you want to view a new web page, it could produce the situation you now have: Multiple Chrome programs using a lot of memory and competing for internet access. That's likely to slow the response time of browser-based software. The better way to view additional web pages is to open them in new tabs in the same copy of Chrome (simultaneously press the Ctrl and "t" keys to open a new tab.)

Too many extensions: Running many individual copies of Chrome is even more harmful if each one uses too many extensions, which are browser add-on programs that produce new features, such as advertisement blocking. You can reduce RAM use by manually turning off or deleting some extensions (see tinyurl.com/yando4ol).

Malicious software: Google recently removed 89 Chrome browser extensions from its online library after discovering they did things such as spy on web browsing and record user keystrokes in an effort to steal credit card numbers and other personal information (see tinyurl.com/y8rb2f8g). If you have downloaded any of those extensions, they could be using a lot of RAM memory.

Google said it that it has disabled the malicious extensions for the 420,000 people who had downloaded them. But if your browser was missed, try deleting the bad extensions with the free security programs Malwarebytes (see tinyurl.com/jsdacdk) or Chrome Cleanup Tool (see tinyurl.com/p4tx5pp).

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Martha Cabrera Santos

Born to Life: March 07, 1935
Called to Eternal Life: March 21, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her:

HUSBAND: †Alfred Frederica Santos
PARENTS: †Jose Palacios Cabrera (Tamat)
†Maria Mendiola Cabrera (Damoa)
SON: †Kenneth C. Santos
DAUGHTERS: †Gezena C. Santos
†Erlinse C. Santos
BROTHERS/SISTERS AND SPOUSES:
†Roberto M. and †Vicenta C. Tudela
†Francisca T. and †Pedro A. Borja
†Celia C. and Antonio D. Reyes
†Gabriel M. and †Rosa P. Cabrera
†Ramona C. and †Manuel S. Sablan
†Rosario C. and †Jose C. Attao
†Francisco T. and †Rosa C. Torres
†Vicente M. and †Maria DLC. Cabrera
†Maria M. Cabrera
†Jesus Hocog
†Probio M. and †Trinidad DLC. Cabrera
†Emilio M. Cabrera
†George L. Teregeyo

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

SISTER: Vicenta Cabrera Teregeyo
SON AND DAUGHTER IN-LAW:
Monique Santos [Magdelis & Michael Gloudeman {Maxent Kenneth Jeffrey}, Cecilia Santos, Geoffrey Santos]
Alfred C. Santos [Erlinse Mae, Alfred III, Keith]
Joseph C. and Carolyn Santos [Laina, Angelina, Maria, Eva]
GRANDCHILDREN:
Gezina C. Santos [Martha, Alvin, Leon]
Branson Jay and Diosalyn Santos {Daejah, Branson Jr. Lilia]
SISTER IN-LAW: Maria F. Hocog
CAREGIVER: Beatriz "Pat" B. Flores

She will also be greatly missed by her numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

On behalf of Alfred C. Santos Jr., Joseph C. Santos, and the family, we would like to invite you to join us for the following services for our beloved †Martha Mendiola Cabrera Santos aka Nan Tata Tamat:

Daily Mass (03/22-27; 04/02) at 6 p.m. and rosary immediately following at San Vicente Church (except for Sundays, 03/25 & 04/01 Easter will be at 9 a.m.).
Daily Mass only (03/22-27) at 6 p.m. at San Antonio Church.

Wednesday, 03/21 thru Saturday, 03/24 Rosary will be at 6:30 p.m. at San Pedro Chapel at Kanat Tabla.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, April 03, 2018. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to the Mount Carmel Cathedral.
Responso service will be at 8 a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Your thoughts, presence and prayers are sincerely appreciated by the family. I finaton-miyo, hinason-miyo yan espesiatmenta i tinayayut miyo masen agradese nui i familia.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Families

Life & Style

Court sides with Marvin Gaye family in 'Blurred Lines' fight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld a copyright infringement verdict against Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams over the 2013 hit song "Blurred Lines," agreeing with lower courts that it illegally copied from Marvin Gaye's "Got to Give it Up."

In a split decision from a three-judge panel, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the family of the late soul singer is entitled to the $5.3 million it was awarded in a case that has been closely watched in the music industry for its potential effects on copyright and creativity.

Two judges rejected the defense's request to overturn a jury verdict or order a new trial, saying that Gaye's copyright on the song is entitled to broad protection. They accepted a trial court judge's instructions to jurors to decide the case based only on the sheet music to the two songs, and not the recordings.

Judge Jacqueline Nguyen offered a harsh dissent, saying that the two R&B tunes resemble each other only in style not substance and that the decision was detrimental to the future of artists and creativity.

"The majority allows the Gayes to accomplish what no one has before: copyright a musical style," Nguyen wrote. "'Blurred Lines' and 'Got to Give It Up' are not objectively similar. They differ in melody, harmony, and rhythm. Yet by refusing to compare the two works, the majority establishes a dangerous precedent that strikes a devastating blow to future musicians and composers everywhere."

Howard King, an attorney for Williams and Thicke, seized on Nguyen's comments.

"We stand by the fact that these are two entirely different songs," King said in an email to The Associated Press. "The thorough and well-reasoned dissenting judge's opinion is compelling and enhances the prospects for success in a further review by the Court of Appeals."

The Gaye family's attorney Richard S. Busch praised the ruling. "Despite the protests of the Williams' camp that the decision somehow stifles creativity, the opposite is true," he said in a statement. He said the verdict and Wednesday's ruling "encourages today's writers to create original work that does not take advantage of the success of others while pawning it off as their own."

The court also upheld a jury's verdict that hip-hop artist T.I., who raps in the middle of the song, and Interscope Records, are not liable for damages in the case.

While artists normally fall firmly on the side of greater copyright protections, many lined up behind Thicke and Williams in this appeal.

HOLLYWOOD STAR AP

In this June 3, 2000 file photo, members of NSync, from left, Lance Bass, Joey Fatone, Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez and Chris Kirkpartrick perform at the 9th annual MTV Movie Awards in Culver City, Calif. 'N Sync is finally reuniting—but not for new music or a tour. The boy band will earn a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on April 30. Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez, Lance Bass, Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpartrick will attend the event.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Selena Gomez responds after bikini pics show scar

NEW YORK (AP)—Selena Gomez took to Instagram after bikini photos of her in Australia showing a scar drew social media comments that she looked "thick." The singer wrote that the beauty myth was "an obsession with physical perfection that traps modern woman in an endless cycle of hopelessness, self consciousness and self-hatred." Gomez says she "chose to take care of myself" because she wants to and "not to prove anything to anyone." The scar was the result of a complication from her 2017 kidney transplant. The post included a video of Gomez with friends on a boat in Sydney Harbor.

Actresses urge New York Gov. Cuomo to raise tipped wage

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Sixteen actresses, including Jane Fonda, Sarah Jessica Parker, Reese Witherspoon and Natalie Portman, are urging New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to raise the wage paid to tipped workers. The women signed onto a letter to the Democratic governor as his administration examines whether to eliminate the subminimum wage paid to restaurant servers and other workers who make tips. The actresses invoked the #TimesUp hashtag and wrote that relying on tips forces many workers to endure widespread sexual harassment. Others signing onto the letter include Lily Tomlin, Rashida Jones, Amy Poehler, America Ferrera, Jessica Chastain, Amber Tamblyn, Brie Larson, Debra Messing, Michelle Williams, Erika Alexander, Ashley Judd, and Sarah Silverman.

Bad weather forces Justin Timberlake to postpone NYC concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Timberlake's Wednesday night concert New York City is being postponed due to the spring nor'easter. The pop star posted a video of himself in the snow on Instagram on Wednesday, telling his fans he's "so sorry to announce the show tonight at the Garden has been postponed due to the weather, as you can see." Timberlake added that his Thursday night show at Madison Square Garden would still go on. Tickets for Wednesday's show will be honored at a new date, Timberlake said. The singer's tour kicked off this month. It is in support of his new album, "Man of the Woods," released days before he headlined this year's Super Bowl halftime show. Timberlake ended the video saying, "Happy spring everybody."

Britney Spears lands 1st high fashion campaign with Kenzo

PARIS (AP)—Britney Spears has landed her first high fashion modeling campaign as the new face of Paris-based Kenzo. The 36-year-old singer said she had been waiting for the "right fit and the right opportunity" to represent a luxury brand. Celebrity photographer Peter Lindbergh snapped Spears in relaxed styles that feature denim, baseball caps and florals, as well as the princess of pop's signature exposed midriff. The campaign is for the denim-focused "Collection Memento No. 2" that Kenzo previewed last September. The brand said "Lindbergh captured Britney in all her American dream glory and beauty." Spears previously has been the face of her own fragrance line.

Words fail woman in response to sister-in-law's miscarriage

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law, a mother of four, just had a miscarriage at five months. I have no idea what to say to her or my nieces and nephews. "Sorry" doesn't seem to suffice. Her 6-year-old was ecstatic about the new baby. The family is crushed. My husband (her brother) was in tears, and I didn't know what to say to him either.

I have never been able to easily express my emotions. In emotional situations I just go blank and my mind shuts down. I am always at a loss for words, and I feel like it's disconnecting me from relationships. Any advice?

WITHOUT WORDS

DEAR WITHOUT WORDS: When people stay silent, it can be mistaken for lack of caring, when sometimes it happens because the emotions are so overwhelming they can't be put into words. So why not just be honest? You don't have to be a poet, but you do have to say something. Because these are your in-laws, who presumably know you, I'm sure it would be appreciated if you simply said, "You know I have trouble expressing my emotions, but please know how sorry I am for your loss."

DEAR ABBY: I've always dreamed about getting a horse, so I saved up all the money I earned as a kid and finally bought one a year ago. I named her "Springtime," and I love her. She's great. But now I am ready to venture out into the world, and I'm forced to make a decision. Do I give her to a loving home with people who have more time to spend with her, so I can go to college and move to a different state with my boyfriend, who has two years left in the Marine Corps? Or do I keep her and stay at the job I have now and keep doing what I do?

Please give me some advice because, right now, I have no one else to help me with this decision, and it's a hard one.

KELSEA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR KELSEA: I know it's a hard decision to make, but right now your priority must be to finish your education. Start by asking around the "horse community" if someone would be interested in buying Springtime and can give her a good home. Also put the word out at the stable where you have been boarding her. Your veterinarian may also be able to offer you helpful suggestions. However, if they can't help you, contact a horse rescue group to find a safe home for your horse. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin's son is 4 and a picky eater. We love to try new restaurants and cuisines. When we go out to eat, she sometimes brings along a PB&J for her child. Is this acceptable? I always feel a little awkward about it, but then I think the restaurant would rather have us come with something he can eat rather than go to a different restaurant. In her defense, she does have him try the restaurant's food before she produces the sandwich.

AWKWARD DINER

DEAR AWKWARD DINER: I think it's perfectly acceptable. Look at it this way: Which is preferable—a child with his mouth full of a PB&J sandwich he's enjoying, or one who's loudly complaining that the food is awful and he doesn't want to eat it?

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

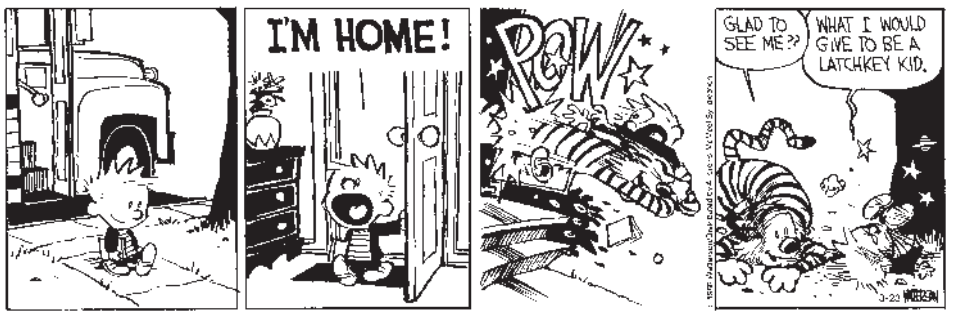
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M FINALLY GETTING MY MAN CAVE!
IT'S ABOUT TIME
I ASKED LIZ TO HELP ME DECORATE
OH-OH
I'M THINKING A SCRAPBOOKING TABLE OVER HERE...
GOODBYE MAN CAVE, HELLO CRAFT ROOM

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WE COULD FINISH CLEANING THE GARAGE, DAD. WE COULD.
OR... HEAR ME OUT... WE COULD GO PLAY "FORTNITE" AND EAT SNACKS UNTIL OUR STOMACHS HURT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THE GARAGE IS GOING ANYWHERE.
RIGHT? AND THESE FLAMIN' HOT CHEETOS AREN'T GETTING ANY FRESHER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HELLO, WANDA? IT'S ENO. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO OUT TONIGHT.
OH, YEAH - I FORGOT ABOUT THAT. HOW ABOUT IF I JUST DRIVE BY YOUR HOUSE AND WAVE? OKAY, THEN. NEVER MIND.
STUPID RESTRAINING ORDER!

CROSSWORD

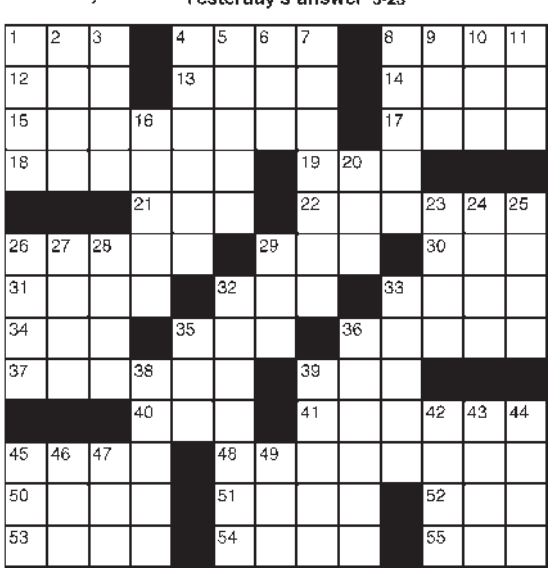
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Humbug!"
4 Foolproof
8 Bell sound
12 Bio stat
13 Construction beam
14 Tittle
15 Reject
17 Rush job acronym
18 Tennis great Williams
19 Aachen article
21 Dog doc
22 Pay a visit
26 CBS mogul William
29 GPS suggestion
30 Mound stat
31 Done with
32 Sticky stuff
33 Sketch
34 Lair
35 Gallery display
36 Jabs
37 Shrimp recipe
39 Victory
40 British ref. work
41 Circular window
45 Swank
48 Economic decline
50 Shove
51 Half of CVI
52 Wyo. neighbor
53 Taj Mahal site
54 Power co. supply
55 Dine

DOWN
1 Baseball gear
2 Chills and fever
3 Frau's mate
4 "To Sir, with Love" actor Poitier
5 WWII sub
6 Uncivilized
7 Automaker Maserati
8 Chopin's instrument
9 Dawn goddess
10 — glance
11 Napkin's place
16 "When pigs fly!"
20 Mineral suffix
23 Fringe benefit
24 Scottish hillside
25 Deviates off course
26 Pea holders
27 With (Fr.)
28 Sultry Horne
29 Hogwash
32 Waffle-making surface
33 Dunkable treat
35 Mimic
36 Open-air meal
38 Coffee flavor
39 "Holy cow!"
42 San — Obispo, Calif.
43 Pakistan's language
44 Ginger cookie
45 Tax prep pro
46 Embrace
47 Medit. nation
49 Tin Man's need

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Monaghan, 42; Keri Russell, 42; Catherine Keener, 59; Chaka Khan, 65.

Happy Birthday: Don't trust anyone with your money, your ideas or serious matters you should tend to on your own. You have more finesse than anyone you could hire to speak on your behalf. You know what you want and the best way to present what you have to offer. Refuse to let anyone hold you back or take control of your life. Your numbers are 2, 14, 21, 25, 33, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look at the people around you and consider who is on your side and who isn't. Express only what you want to share. Don't give anyone the opportunity to take credit for something you did on your own. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't be tempted to fudge the truth or to be gullible when dealing with a smooth operator. Regarding money, donations or joint ventures, you are best to remain reserved and progress with caution. Know your rights and your limitations. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* The lesson of give-and-take will give you a chance to get things done. Whether you are offering to help or you are asking for it, as long as your dialogue is truthful, you will have nothing to worry about. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* There will be changes going on behind your back. Try to stay in the loop if you don't want to be broadsided by someone trying to get the better of you. Ask questions and rely on your instincts. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Your involvement in protests, fundraisers or anything that will help to bring about positive change will put you in a key position to bring about justice or greater equality. Don't offer ultimatums; offer alternatives and be willing to listen to suggestions. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't worry about the changes going on around you. Do what's expected of you and go about your business. Refuse to get involved in someone else's problems. Stay focused on how best to make personal gains. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Emotions can come between you and something you want. Don't lose sight of your goal because someone is trying to antagonize you. Be fully prepared to offer common sense and legitimate facts to make your point clear. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Negotiate on your own behalf. Refuse to let anyone bully you into something that you don't feel is fair or that will compromise your goals or your current position. Make your intentions clear before you engage in change. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take care of business before you relax with friends or family. Keeping your work and your personal life separate will be in your best interest. A change someone makes will influence your assets. Choose action over anger. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Socializing can be fun, but avoid indulgence. Don't venture too far from home or share personal information or passwords. Abide by the rules and avoid facing a fine. Delays will put you behind schedule if you don't leave extra travel time. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take the initiative to make home improvements or plan to host a family gathering. Bringing everyone together will give you a chance to catch up. Getting together with an old friend or attending a reunion will give you plenty to think about. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 2018):* Insight is a wonderful thing when it works for you, but acting without knowledge will lead to frustration and backtracking. Do your research before you step into a situation that is clouded with controversy. Know your rights. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are spontaneous, playful and assertive. You are strong-minded and groundbreaking.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		2	7		8	3		4
	6			3			2	
5		7	3		9	2		1
	8			5			7	
2		4	8		5	6		3
	5			7			9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	3	4	8	7	5	2	1	6
7	8	6	2	1	3	9	5	4
5	2	1	9	4	6	3	8	7
4	1	7	6	3	8	5	9	2
2	6	9	1	5	7	4	3	8
3	5	8	4	9	2	6	7	1
6	7	5	3	2	1	8	4	9
8	4	3	7	6	9	1	2	5
1	9	2	5	8	4	7	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BOMBARDIER'S NEW C-SERIES JET Solution: 10 letters

P	E	N	A	L	P	N	F	F	O	E	K	A	T	T
N	N	W	O	C	I	M	A	N	Y	D	O	R	E	A
A	I	E	W	B	L	S	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	E
F	G	R	A	K	O	G	R	A	C	D	E	E	P	S
O	N	C	C	E	T	D	E	E	G	A	W	O	T	S
B	E	E	L	R	R	D	E	N	S	I	T	Y	U	A
R	D	I	M	A	D	U	C	O	S	T	H	B	Ⓛ	L
U	A	P	G	A	E	E	T	Z	M	L	R	Ⓐ	Y	C
T	E	I	U	Q	R	S	V	C	H	I	Ⓤ	S	T	N
E	T	H	G	I	L	F	I	O	A	Ⓓ	S	W	I	O
S	J	A	E	G	N	A	R	U	R	F	T	O	C	I
T	E	K	R	A	M	N	T	I	R	P	U	D	A	L
I	T	T	Y	L	P	P	U	S	A	C	M	N	P	L
N	S	A	I	S	L	E	A	N	E	S	T	I	A	I
G	N	I	T	H	G	I	L	S	G	N	I	W	C	M

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Aerodynamic, AHMS, Airbus, Airframe, Aisle, Cabin, Capacity, Cargo, Class, Cost, Crew, Cruise, Deck, Density, Drag, Dual, Emissions, Engine, Flight, Improved, Jets, Leanest, Lighting, Manufacture, Market, Million, Pilot, Plane, Quiet, Range, Seat, Speed, Stowage, Supply, Tail, Takeoff, Testing, Thrust, Turbofan, Virtual, Windows, Wings, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Billionaire

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TELESOURCE CNMI, INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) SENIOR PLANT OPERATOR

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Supervise and coordinates activities of workers engaged in operation, control and maintenance of electricalpower generating, receiving and distribution stations, transmission lines, and distribution systems and equipment; Devises and writes operating procedures for plant system, transmission and distribution lines, and receiving and distribution stations based on review and interpretation of government regulations. Supervises and approves reading of charts, meters, and gauges to monitor voltage and electricity flows. Supervise proper check/maintenance of equipment and indicators to detect evidence of operating problems. Supervises properadjustment controls to regulate the flow of power or electrical output from plant to distribution stations. Administer all safety standards (OSHA) and responsible for training and enforcing applicable federal and local policy and procedures.

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- Five (5) years experience in operation tand maintenance of diesel engine power generation;
- Experience in SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition) – Automation and high voltage power generation facilities and transmission/distribution systems. Combination of education and work experience is accepted as a minimum entry for this position. Foreign Equivalence is acceptable.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

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Attn: Jeffrey L. Barr
General Manager in-Charge
San Jose Village
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Tinian, MP 96952
or
By Facsimile: 670) 433-4505; or by e-mail: jeff.meti@pticom.com

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dba BL MACHINE SHOP

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: (3) Machinist/Mechanic

Job Description: Modify and Fabricate parts, tools metal and nonmetal to meet manufacturing and engineering needs, studies drawings or sample parts to determine dimensions and tolerance of finish work piece, sequence of operation and set up requirements, verifies conformance of finish workpiece, weld, heat treat, repair worn damaged equipment, dismantled and inspected components and repaired them as necessary, operate all shop machinery such as Lathe Machine, Vertical and Horizontal Milling Machines, Shaper Machine, Pipe Threading Machine, Rotor and Break Drum Refacing, Line Boring Machine, Crankshaft Grinder Machine, Reboring Machine, Engine Block Reconditioning and Overhauling, other related duties or task.

Minimum Qualifications: With at least 2 years course in Automotive Technician/Machining or any related field of study. Have at least 4 years of relevant work experience as a Machinist and Mechanic.

Place of Employment: Successful applicant will be assigned to work in Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Please submit a comprehensive resume to:
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Office Address: Walumwo Street Chalan Lau Lau
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: LEGAL ASSISTANT

Job Description: Welcomes guests and clients by greeting them in person or on the telephone; answering or directing inquiries; Produces information by transcribing, formatting, inputting, editing, retrieving, copying, and transmitting test, data, and graphics; coordinating case preparation; Conserves attorneys time by reading, researching, reviewing, verifying, and routing correspondence, reports and legal documents; drafting letters and documents; collecting and analyzing information; initiating telecommunications; organizing client conferences, and attorney meetings; scheduling couriers, court reporters, expert witnesses, and other special functions; coordinating preparation of charts, graphs and other courtroom visuals; preparing expense reports; Maintains attorney calendar by planning and scheduling conferences, teleconferences, depositions, and travel; recording and monitoring evidence-gathering; anticipating changes in litigation or transaction preparation requirements; Represents attorney by communicating and obtaining information; following-up on delegated assignments; knowing when to act and when to refer matters to attorney; Generates revenues by documenting and inputting attorney billable time and reimbursable expenses; preparing invoices; tracking payments; Maintains client confidence by keeping client/attorney information confidential; Provides historical reference by developing and utilizing filing and retrieval systems; recording meeting discussions; maintaining transcripts; documenting and maintaining evidence; Maintains office supplies by checking stocks; placing and expediting orders; evaluating new products; ensures operation of equipment by completing preventive maintenance requirements; calling for repairs; Updates job knowledge by participating in educational opportunities; reading professional publications; maintaining personal networks; participating in professional organizations.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have at least 2-years of relevant work experience in a law office environment; With extensive knowledge of handling front office activities; Professional and with excellent organizational skills; Excellent written and oral communication and interpersonal skills; Knowledge of computer applications like Microsoft Word, Excel and Peachtree, QuickBooks, Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Outlook, proficient in the use of legal research software such as Westlaw.

Job Site: 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

How to Apply: Submit or mail professional resume to:
KING LAW OFFICE
Office Address: 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
Mailing Address: PMB 197, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Job Description: Do on the spot assessment of the patient's condition and determine a proper course of treatment; Use backboards and restraints to immobilize patients and secure them in the ambulance; Help transfer patients to hospitals and other healthcare facilities and report their observations and first aid treatment before relinquishing the care to the doctors or nurses-in-charge; Create a patient care report using EMS charts documenting the medical care given to the patient at the scene and enroute to the hospital.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be high school graduate; With at least 20years of relevant work experience; Must have passed the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT); Must have completed and passed the training of required number of hours from the state-approved program; Must have acquired Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certification (BLS-CPR/AED); Must be a licensed Emergency Medical Technician (as approved by Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Must have a clean criminal background; Must know how to drive and must possess a valid CNMI Driver's License at all times; Must be willing to work flexible hours, including, nights/weekends/holidays; Must be computer-literate (Microsoft Word/Excel) and with knowledge on how to use/operate QuickBooks software). Experience in medical billing and coding is a plus.

Job Site: Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

How to Apply: Submit or mail professional resume to:
MARIANAS GLOBAL VENTURES, LLC.
dba Priority Care Services
Office Address: Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 500170, Saipan, MP 96950-0170

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Job Duties: Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explains & demonstrates the basic of scuba diving & teaches the proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. Supervise other scuba diving instructors. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned. **Requirements:** Minimum 1 year of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers. **Compensations:** Workers' Compensation & scuba diving instructor insurance provided.

Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license, or your inquiry by e-mail or fax to:

AQUA CONNECTIONS, INC.
E-mail aqua@pticom.com
Fax: (670) 233-3304

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: MARKETING MANAGER

Job Description: Identifies current and future customer requirements by establishing rapport with potential and actual customers and other persons in a positions to understand service requirements; Ensures Availability of merchandise and services by maintaining inventories; formulates pricing policies by reviewing merchandising activities; Determining additional needed sales promotion; authorizing clearance sales; studying trends; Markets merchandise by studying advertising, sales promotions, and display plans; analyzing operating and financial statements; Secures merchandise by implementing security systems and measures; Protects customers by providing a safe and clean environment; Maintains the stability and reputation of the store by complying with legal requirements; Determines marketing strategy changes by reviewing operating statements and departmental sales records; Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; establishing personal networks; Maintains operations by initiating, coordinating, and following operational and personnel policies.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have a strong marketing sense to be able to perform the above duties.

Job Site: 101 Akari Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

How to Apply: Submit or mail professional resume to:
SPHERE, INC.
Office Address: 101 Akari Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
Mailing Address: PMB 761, P.O. Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

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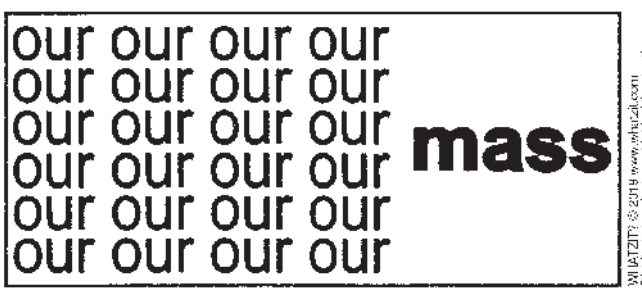

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Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering or Technology, or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years experience as a Field or Engineering Technician or closely related job for telecommunications or cable company.
Duties: Install new premises wiring, disconnect drop line, de-install "wreck-out" of drop line systems, and re-connect previous customers. Install advance services such as high speed internet, Digital, and VOIP phone service. Troubleshoot and repair all problems occurring within the CATV drop system from the output of the distribution tap to all terminal points within a drop system. Understand the proper operation of customer premises equipment such as analog boxes, High speed internet modems and be able to educate customers on its proper use. Monitor for and document CATV leakage. Create CLI leak reports and repairs leakage as required. Lead crew as assigned. Repair sources of CATV leakage from distribution tap to CPE in customers home. Perform audit of questionable connections to distribution taps. Perform sales of new services or upgrades of existing customers. Maintain accurate records of daily tasks. Work safely and follow all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.

One (1) Bench Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Electronic or Electrical Engineering or Technology, or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years experience as a Bench Technician for a telecommunications or cable company. Solid interpersonal communications skills. Highly motivated individual.
Duties: Perform component level bench repair of various electronics equipment. Operate various test equipment to diagnose and isolate electronic problems. Interpret schematic diagrams. Utilize computer to document and record findings and to perform research. Perform after hours stand-by for emergency calls on operational head-end equipment and systems. Perform related duties as assigned. Perform all tasks related to the Hybrid Fiber Coaxial System's operation and maintenance. Improve all aspects of the Headend for the HFC Operation and Maintenance. Operate Fusion Splicer. Test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment. Possess knowledge of Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation. Perform troubleshooting of the Headend. Possess knowledge of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System and Stealth Sweep System. Possess knowledge of FCC compliance testing. Must be able to operate a Spectrum Analyzer and MPEG Analyzer. Observe all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures. Perform other related duties, as assigned.

One (1) Fiber Technician
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) or GED; four (4) years experience as a Fiber or Maintenance Technician or Broadband Cable T.V. Technician for a telecommunications or cable company; must be able to operate Fusion Splicer and test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment; and must have knowledge of the Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation and PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System.
Duties: Perform all tasks related to the Hybrid Fiber Coaxial System's operation and maintenance. Improves all aspects of the Headend for the HFC Operation and Maintenance. Operate Fusion Splicer. Test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment. Possess knowledge of Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation. Perform troubleshooting of the Headend. Possess knowledge of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System and Stealth Sweep System. Possess knowledge of FCC compliance testing. Must be able to operate a Spectrum Analyzer and MPEG Analyzer. Observe all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures. Perform other related duties, as assigned.

One (1) Tech Zone Supervisor
Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED required (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as inventory support for telecommunications company. Ability to train and support to the techZONE team; research cellular handset/devices for software (OS) upgrades; repair and diagnose cellular devices, work to ensure the highest level of customer service and repairs.
Duties: Programming / Provisioning of all Handsets / Wireless devices utilizing knowledge of all Handsets / Wireless devices and its features and understanding of all applications / protocols required for handsets and wireless devices. Understanding all accessories and hardware for handsets and wireless devices. Diagnose or trouble shoot cellular devices. Repair cellular devices in a timely matter. Upgrading of software (os) of handsets. Assist business sales on issues of cellular devices. Assist team in exceeding repair and service times. Maintain a clean and well-organized work area. Maintain and process seedstock and parts as per SOP. Assist Manager in overseeing all aspects of techZONE operations. Prepare or assist in preparation of techZone staff and conduct and/or coordinate training for new and established staff. Prepare and manage service reports daily, weekly, and monthly. Maintain and manage inventory reports daily, weekly and monthly. Ensure customer issues are resolved in a timely manner. Present TechZone updates and reports to Senior Leadership Team.

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McIlroy, Johnson lose early at Match Play

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Rory McIlroy put together another flawless back nine, running off five straight birdies.

This time, it wasn't enough.

Former U.S. Amateur champion Peter Uihlein built a 5-up lead against McIlroy and held off his late charge with enough key shots of his own in a 2-and-1 victory, one of several surprises Wednesday in the opening session of the Dell Technologies Match Play.

Defending champion Dustin Johnson hit two shots out-of-bounds on the same hole, another tee shot in the hazard and couldn't make the putts that he couldn't afford to miss on the back nine. He wound up losing on the 17th hole to Bernd Wiesberger.

Justin Thomas also got a scare, mainly because his opponent had to putt with a sand wedge over the last 12 holes.

McIlroy was coming off a victory in the Arnold Palmer Invitational just three days ago, when he birdied five of his last six holes to win by three shots.

"I felt it was going to go two different ways," Uihlein said. "When a guy comes off a win, next week out they're either a little flat or still as hot as can be and they're just going to blitz it."

McIlroy was a little of both. He had a bogey, a double bogey and no birdies as Uihlein raced out to a 5-up lead through 10 holes. McIlroy began his run of five straight birdies on No. 12, and it might have been enough had Uihlein not matched him with a birdie at the 12th and another one on the 13th, when he laid up into the wind on the short par 4 over water and stuffed a wedge into 5 feet.

AP

Defending champion Dustin Johnson hits on the 13th hole during round-robin play at the Dell Technologies Match Play golf tournament Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in Austin, Texas.

"I made him earn it at least," McIlroy said. "I just came away a little fat. I didn't really necessarily play badly. He didn't make a bogey all day, so it was hard to sort of claw my way back."

McIlroy, along with Johnson, Phil Mickelson and Tommy Fleetwood, now have to do some serious clawing to win their groups. All of them lost the opening match in their four-man groups and will need some help to advance to the weekend.

In the two years this round-robin format has been used, only four players have lost on Wednesday and won their group.

One of them was Johnson two years ago.

The world's No. 1 player lost his first lead by driving into the hazard, another 1-up lead with he drove out-of-bounds twice on the par-5 sixth hole, and he was in serious trouble when his tee shot on the par-3 11th hit off the rocks guarding the green and into the lake, falling 2 down.

"I thought it was the easiest game I could have," Wiesberger said. "I'm the underdog playing the defending championship. Just go out there and see what happens."

Plenty happened on the first day as the 18-hole matches lived up to their fickle reputation.

Thomas, who had his wisdom teeth pulled two weeks ago and now is recovering from strep throat, built a 3-up lead that looked even larger when Luke List, whom Thomas beat in a playoff to win the Honda Classic, swung his putter into the hedges after losing the hole at No. 7.

Except those weren't hedges.

"Turned out to be a wall," List said.

It bent the grip of his putter enough that he could no longer use the damaged club in the round. List putted with the leading edge of his sand wedge, and he fought back to take Thomas to the 18th hole.

"When he started putted with the wedge, I knew that it would hopefully make it easier on me," Thomas said. "But it didn't."

Jordan Spieth won his opening match over Charl Schwartzel by winning three straight holes to build a 3-up lead through 14 and holding on for a 2-and-1 victory. Spieth again missed a few short putts early in the round when he could have seized control.

The match ended with a peculiar twist. Schwartzel missed his birdie putt on No. 17, meaning Spieth had two putts from 5 feet to win the match. Schwartzel made him hit both putts, the second one from just over 2 feet.

"I missed some shorties to start the round. I don't hold that against Charl," Spieth said. "I didn't enjoy hitting that second putt, and that's the point."

Charles Howell III birdied the 12th and 13th holes to go 3 up on Mickelson, who made only one birdie in 16 holes. Mickelson lost his opening match for the first time since John Cook beat him in 2002 at La Costa.

Mickelson, McIlroy and Johnson can't afford another loss, and even that might not be enough to reach the knockout stage on the weekend.

NFL competition committee to recommend catch rule changes

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—The NFL's catch rule would get less complicated if team owners approve recommendations from the powerful competition committee.

One of the first orders of business when the league's annual meetings begin Monday in Orlando, Florida, will be a proposal by the committee to clarify what is a catch. Commissioner Roger Goodell said during the week of the Super Bowl he would urge simplification of the rules.

"Catch/no catch is at the top of everyone's minds," Troy Vincent, the NFL's football operations chief, said Wednesday before outlining the committee's recommendations.

The owners will be asked to vote on clarifications that eliminate parts of the rule involving a receiver going to the ground, and that also eliminate negating a catch for slight movement of the ball while it is in the receiver's possession. No calls in the last few years -- not even pass interference -- have caused more consternation than overturned catches in key situations, including those by Dez Bryant, Jesse James and Austin Seferian-Jenkins.

"We were at the point as far as players and particularly coaches who asked, `Why is that not a catch?" Vincent said. "We talked to fans, coaches and players and we asked the groups, `Would you like this to be a catch?' It was 100 percent yes.

"Then we began writing rules that actually apply to making these situations catches."

Here's what would constitute a catch if the owners approve the competition committee's alterations: controlling of the ball; getting two feet down; performing a football act or; performing a third step.

The stipulation that slight movement of the ball while the receiver still has control no longer would result in an incompletion. Vincent pointed to the touchdown catch by the Philadelphia Eagles' Corey Clement in the Super Bowl as an example of a player never losing possession of the ball despite slight movement.

"That's what the fans, coaches and players want," Vincent said. "They are the magical moments people are looking for, and that includes all of those (plays). It's the biggest (proposed change). Why we want this is this is one call shaping results across the sport."

Richard Sherman, the star cornerback who recently was cut by Seattle and signed with San Francisco, approves cleaning up the rules.

FIFA urges Russia to hasten work on delayed World Cup arena

SAMARA, Russia (AP)—FIFA has urged Russia to speed up World Cup preparations at a stadium which needs "a huge amount of work" to be ready on time.

With less than three months to go until the World Cup, the 45,000-seat Samara Arena is the only one of 12 stadiums which doesn't yet have a pitch installed.

The stadium in the Volga River city of Samara was already badly delayed due to a complex roof design, but now cold weather in the Russian spring is causing further problems. The pitch can't be installed until the weather warms up.

"Obviously we would expect further progress than this," FIFA's chief competitions official Colin Smith said on a visit to the arena Wednesday. "We don't yet have a pitch, and obviously we need to wait for some warmer weather conditions in order to get this pitch installed."

As of Tuesday, instead of a field, there was an area covered with tarpaulins and snow. Temperatures are forecast to stay slightly below freezing for the rest of the week.

"There's a huge amount of work still to be done," Smith added. "From the information we've received there's nothing stopping all these areas being completed on time. It just requires commitment and more manpower to get it done on time, and when we talk about on time, we're talking about the commissioning date of the end of April."

If that date passes, it could restrict FIFA's ability to test the stadium with Russian league games and install World Cup equipment. Outside the arena, deep snowdrifts cover much of an area that is due to be landscaped for the tournament and will host some facilities for fans.

Alexander Fetisov, deputy governor of the Samara region, said the stadium will be ready.

"I'd like to avoid unnecessary dramatization of the situation," he said. "Everything is being done so that the stadium is commissioned in the time required."

Samara isn't the only World Cup field which has drawn attention in recent weeks. The stadium in Kazan has been widely criticized by Russian fans after a brown, muddy surface was used for league games after the winter break.

Smith said FIFA was offering Russia help to get its fields ready, adding, "We're doing everything possible and we're convinced that we're going to have a very, very high standard of pitches at this tournament."

LeBron's 35 points, 17 assists lift Cavs past Raptors

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James scored 35 points and added 17 assists, his last setting up a late a 3-pointer by Kevin Love, and the undermanned Cleveland Cavaliers ended Toronto's nine-game road winning streak with a 132-129 victory over the Eastern Conference-leading Raptors on Wednesday night.

The Cavs were missing five rotational players and coach Tyronn Lue, who missed his second straight game because of health reasons.

But they had James, who earlier in the day said, "I'll be available, so we got a chance."

James didn't have a turnover in 40 minutes and he made three free throws in the final 7.8 seconds. He missed one with 3.9 seconds left, giving Toronto a final shot, but DeMar DeRozan's 3-pointer—contested by James—was wide left. DeRozan and Toronto coaches complained the All-Star was fouled to no avail.

Hornets 111, Nets 105

In New York, Dwight Howard had 32 points and a franchise-record 30 rebounds, becoming the first player with a 30-30 game against the Nets since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1978.

Kemba Walker scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter for the Hornets, who trailed by as many 23 points in the second half but won in front of an announced crowd of 10,231 at Barclay Center while a heavy snowfall outside blanketed the New York City area.

Trailing 105-102 with 2:14 left in regulation, the Hornets went on a 9-0 run to pull off the impressive comeback.

Clippers 127, Bucks 120

In Milwaukee, DeAndre Jordan had 25 points and 22 rebounds to lead Los Angeles past Milwaukee.

Austin Rivers added 22 points and Lou Williams scored 19 for Los Angeles, which bounced back after a deflating loss to Minnesota on Tuesday night.

The Bucks lost All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo to a right ankle sprain late in the first half. Antetokounmpo appeared to get hurt when he tripped over teammate Shabazz Muhammad under Milwaukee's basket.

76ers 119, Grizzlies 105

In Philadelphia, Robert Covington, J.J. Redick and Dario Saric each had 15 points to pace all five Philadelphia starters in double-figures, and the 76ers continued their push for home-court advantage in the playoffs.

Joel Embiid added 14 points and Ben Simmons had 13 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the 76ers (40-30), who won their fourth straight to improve to a season-best 10 games over .500. None of the starters played in the fourth quarter.

Spurs 98, Wizards 90

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and nine rebounds, and San Antonio won its fifth straight game.

San Antonio remained in sixth place in the Western Conference, one-half game behind fourth-place Oklahoma City. The Spurs close out a six-game homestand Friday against Utah, which is 1+ games behind San Antonio in eighth place.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past Toronto Raptors' Jakob Poeltl (42) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won, 132-129.

Pelicans 96, Pacers 92

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis capped a 28-point, 13-rebound, five-block performance with a 15-foot baseline fade, a gritty putback and two free throws in the final minute, and New Orleans outlasted Indiana.

E'Twaun Moore scored 23 points for New Orleans, which had to overcome a scrappy defensive effort by Indiana to win its third straight.

Nuggets 135, Bulls 102

In Chicago, Nikola Jokic had 21 points, seven rebounds and five assists on "Serbian Heritage Night," and Denver routed Chicago.

Denver shot 61.4 percent (51 for 83) from the field and had seven players score in double figures. Paul Millsap had 22 points and eight rebounds in 27 minutes, and Wilson Chandler made five of the Nuggets' 20 3-pointers on his way to 19 points.

Heat 119, Knicks 98

In Miami, Kelly Olynyk scored 22 points and handed out a career-high 10 assists, Tyler Johnson added 22 points and Miami had little trouble on the way to beating New York.

Wayne Ellington scored 16, Justise Winslow added 15, Goran Dragic had 14 and Josh Richardson finished with 12 for the Heat, who remained seventh in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Enes Kanter scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the Knicks. Michael Beasley added 22 points on 10 for 15 shooting for New York, and Trey Burke scored 16 off the bench.

Cobb joins Orioles, wanting to stay in AL East

The Baltimore Orioles figured Alex Cobb would be a fine fit.

Cobb stayed in the division he knew best, finalizing a $57 million, four-year contract on Wednesday.

"They used the AL East and the success I've had in it to their advantage," the 30-year-old right-hander said. "They kept challenging me with it and I love the challenge of pitching in this division and they know that over the times we talked. They did a really good job of making me feel like this is where I need to be."

Cobb had spent his entire six-season big league career with Tampa Bay and was the last top starting pitcher available in a slow-moving free agent market.

Cobb joined Andrew Cashner and Chris Tillman, who were signed last month, in a revamped rotation that includes holdovers Dylan Bundy and Kevin Gausman.

The Orioles are coming off a last-place finish and 75-87 record.

Cobb was 12-10 with a 3.66 ERA in 29 starts last season. He pitched 179 1/3 innings in his first full year back after missing nearly two seasons because of Tommy John surgery.

He had turned down the Rays' $17.4 million qualifying offer in November, and Baltimore pursued him from the start of free agency.

"They didn't stop bothering me the whole offseason," Cobb said.

Cobb is 48-35 with a 3.50 ERA in the majors.

Baltimore opens on March 29 at home against Minnesota, but Cobb won't be ready to pitch then. He has agreed to be optioned to a minor league affiliate to help build up innings.

"I'm going to be pushing it as quick as I can," he said.

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KONQER Saipan moved to Kilili Beach

After previously announcing the location for the 2018 KONQER Obstacle Course Challenge would be at Isley Park, event organizers have made the decision to move the event location to Kilili Beach Park, according to KONQER chief experience offcer Kaz Endo.

"While we hope to use Isely Park and the airport area for future events, we are really excited about the move to Kilili Beach Park and expanded areas as the home base for this year's event, especially being in such close proximity to the Flame Tree Festival," said Endo. "Now, KONQER participants can enjoy the best of both worlds"

The obstacle course challenge is still set for the original date—April 28—and will include an all-new course with some exciting new obstacles and the return of several fan favorites. Registration is available online at konqersports.com.

"As we near the event month, we're exteanding to all our brigade a 50 percent off registration offer with promo code K62018. It's limited to the first 100, so don't wait, register now," said Endo. "Stay tuned to konqersports.com and our Facebook page for the final course maps to be posted, as well as some sneak peeks at the new obstacles we've got on tap for our KONQER Brigade."

KONQER Saipan is presented by Marianas Visitors Authority and sponsored by Bank of Guam, IT&E, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, *Marianas Variety*, Saipan Brewing Company, Hertz, DR Constructors, and Go Pro. ***(PR)***

TAGAMAN

From Page 32

rently ranked 321st in the world tied with Madalena Almeida of Portugal, Ipek Oztosun of Turkey and Zulanny Rivero of Venezuela. The Korean finished a strong fifth (2:12:22) in the elite women's division in the 51.50 2017 Asian Triathlon Confederation Triathlon Asian Cup in Sokcho in South Korea. Hong also came in seventh overall in the 16th Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010 in China and was runner-up to compatriot and eventual elite women's champion A Reum Jo in the 2013 Korea Triathlon National Championships.

Nishiuchi, on the other hand, is currently at No. 114 in the women's ITU long distance triathlon ranking and came in 14th (6:53:49) in the elite women's division in the 2015 Motala ITU Long Distance Triathlon World Championships in Sweden. The Japanese also finished seventh in the 2007 Hong Kong ITU Triathlon Asian Cup (2:19:14), 53rd in the 2007 Tiszaujvaros BG Triathlon World Cup (2:09:16) in Hungary, and 10th in the 2008 Gold Coast ITU Triathlon Oceania Cup (2:04:50) in Australia.

The former Guam national swimmer Iijima, however, is no pushover as she won numerous races—short distance, marathon, and multisport—and also placed ninth in her age group in last year's Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She finished sixth in her first race as a pro in last year's Ironman 70.3 in Phuket Island, Thailand, and first in her age group and sixth overall in the 2017 Ironman 70.3 Subic Bay in Olongapo, Philippines.

Jo, who is a returning competitor together with compatriot Jiho Hwang, finished sixth in the 2014 Incheon Asian Games in South Korea. She also raced in the ITU World Cup event held in 2014 in Jiayuguan City in northwestern China.

Hwang, meanwhile, had back-to-back first place finishes in the Yeoju City Greatman Triathlon and the Jeju International Triathlon both held in 2016 in South Korea. She also came in at fourth in the women's pro/elite in the 2016 Gurye Ironman 70.3 in South Korea.

Two-time Hongsung National O2 Triathlon (2016, 2017) and 2017 Gunsan Saemankum Triathlon champ Na Rae Jung and Jin Hyung Kim, a 22-year-old Asian Cup veteran, are the other South Korean female competitors.

Meanwhile, in the men's divison, Kaon Cho is also returning in the hopes of finally winning the Tagaman and dislodging 2017 titlist Dorvskikh. Both have been familiar fixtures in various races on Saipan, including the Hell of the Marianas and the now defunct XTERRA triathlon.

Gyu Seo Choi—another returning South Korean bet—Hong Kong's Leong Tim Law, and Yu Shinozaki of Japan are also expected to contend for the men's crown.

Law, a Singapore Youth Olympian, has a long list of achievements in various triathlon races in Asia and even came in third in the Under 23 division of the 2016 Couzmel ITU Aquathlon World Championships in Mexico. Shinozaki is an eight-time Nijima Triathlon champion with his last win coming in last year and he also ruled the 2016 Goto Nagasaki National Triathlon and the 2016 Tonunoshima Triathlon. The Japanese had fifth (2014) and fourth (2015) overall finishes in Ironman Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Tan Siu Lin Foundation assistant manager Raymond Zapanta, TanHoldings community relations director Carline Sablan, TRAC officials Paul Plunkett and Florence Antonio, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Merlie Tolentino pose for a photo after a donation turnover ceremony for the 2018 Tagaman Triathlon.

OL'ACES

From Page 32

While the Ol'Aces struggled offensively in the final canto, the Lady Ol'Aces delivered the needed baskets to grab the lead and the win. Halle Kenty and Jeralyn Castillo scored 4 points each, while veteran Connie Camacho, Aiko Rasiang, and Taz Deleon Guerrero chipped in 2 markers apiece.

Camacho went on to finish with 10 points, while Lia Rangamar led the Lady Ol'Aces with her 12, drilling 9 of them in the first half to keep their team in the game, as the Ol'Aces were ahead by only 3 at the break, 28-25.

Meanwhile, in the men's division game, Casino also worked its way to a 73-70 win over GSW.

Casino banked on their free throw shooting to escape with the 3-point victory. Casino's last 9 markers all came from the foul line with four of them courtesy of Marinas. Marinas fired 12 of his team-high 19 points in the final canto to lead Casino to a come-from-behind win, as it entered the final frame facing a 42-53 deficit.

GSW nearly took a double-digit lead at the end of the third canto behind the successive baskets of Ken Viray. The shooting guard had a string of 12 points and compiled 19 in the third period alone to put GSW in front. However, he was limited to two field goals in the fourth quarter and could not buy a basket early in that frame when Casino started to rally. Viray had a game-high 28 points on a losing effort.

First Game

Casino 73—Ibag 19, Marinas 16, Sanguyo 15, Atencio 7, Sinatyo 6, Santos 5, Lyodico 4, Bok 3.

GSW 70 — Viray 28, Rangamar 11, Quan 9, Lauron 8, Tenorio 5, Itibus 3, Sambile 2, Kintz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-10, 32-22, 42-53, 73-70.

Second Game

Lady Ol'Aces 48 — L. Rangamar 12, C. Camacho 10, Castillo 6, Kenty 6, Rasiang 6, Deleon Guerrero 4, Omar 3, Kimberly 2.

Ol'Aces 45 — Fernandez 17, E. Santos 16, Pangelinan 6, A. Santos 4, Villagomez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-13, 25-28, 34-40, 48-45.

Saipan Vegas hosts invitational golf tourney

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas Resort & Golf Course will be celebrating its first anniversary with an Invitational Golf Tournament tomorrow at 10:30am at the former Saipan Country Club. Showtime at the by invitation-only golf event is at 10am.

The tournament is to honor the locals who learned and started playing the sport in the first golf course on the island, which was built in 1962 by the U.S. military and was handed over to a private business in 1976.

Saipan Vegas, owned and operated by MP Holdings LLC, is also using the tournament to thank the members of their golf course along with their friends and business partners and golfers that share special memories at the nine-hole facility.

Prizes will be given away to closest to the pin in all the par-3 holes, the straightest and longest drives, the closest to the curved line, and the low gross.

MP Holdings bought SCC, or formerly known as Whispering Palms, on May 2016, a few months after Typhoon Soudelor ravaged the island and forced the golf course to close down due to extensive damage.

SCC has a yardage of 2,085 for the blue tees and 2,024 for the white. It has been a favorite for beginners and a good practice course for long-time players.

KANOA

From Page 32

lead at the break. Matansa kept TanHoldings-1 within striking distance, thanks to Alex Megino and Xin Wen Jin's goals in the fourth and 21st minute.

TanHoldings-1 then gained enough cushion in the second half with Bergancia taking over from Pulido. Bergancia found the back of the net in the 33rd, 39th, 42nd, and 51st minute to outgun Matansa, which got its two goals from Jin (37th minute) and Chanyang Woo (55th).

Meanwhile, MP United is breathing down TanHoldings-1's neck after posting win No. 4 against TanHoldings-2.

Andrew Chung, Dev Bachani and Evan Mendiola delivered the goods for MP United. Chung scored in the third and 52nd minute, while Bachani duplicated that feat in sixth and 58th, and Mendiola hit the board in the 48th.

In other results in the division, Kanoa-2 pulled off an upset over sister team Kanoa-1, 4-2.

Tyler Omelau towed Kanoa-2 to its first victory of the season after making a hat trick, which he recorded in succession. The Kanoa-2 striker's goals were registered in the 38th, 39th, and 55th minute, while Izeh Jolo gave the squad its first goal in the 13th.

Kanoa-2 got its pair of goals from Markus Toves and John Mark Anastacio in the 26th and 50th minute.

BOYS U15
Kanoa 9, Shirley's 0

Kanoa is still unbeaten in the division following a shutout win over Shirley's at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Kanoa, with its 5-1-0 mark, kept its distance against MP United (4-1-1), TanHoldings (3-1-2), Matansa (3-1-2), Paire (1-0-5), and Shirley's (0-0-6).

Ian Karl Maniago led Kanoa's demolition of Shirley's after firing three goals. Markus Toves chipped in two goals, while Jonathan Mindanao, Merrick Toves, and Taehun Han added one apiece. Kanoa was also awarded an own goal.

MP United 8, Paire 0

MP United also cruised to victory against Paire.

Richard Steele starred in MP United's fourth win after scoring in the 33rd , 35th, and 37th minute. Rintaro Miyawaki contributed two goals, while Jason Quimson, Oliver Fajardo, and Rinto Takahashi added one each.

TanHoldings 6, Matansa 1

TanHoldings notched its third win after dominating Matansa.

Taka Borja did most of the damage for TanHoldings, as he recorded four goals. He had one goal in the first half (18th minute) and then tallied TanHoldings' last three goals, scoring in the 46th, 66th, and 67th minute.

Pulido and Taro Goto delivered the two other goals for TanHoldings, while Elijah Villamena posted the lone goal for Matansa.

AJ Lizama leads Bears against Mariners

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A.J. Lizama closed out for the Chalan Kanoa Bears and drove in three RBIs to lift their team to a 7-3 decision over the Mariners in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Not even a slight scare early in the match and intermittent rain could stop the Bears from clinching their fourth win in five games and joining idle Falcons at second place behind the 6-0 slate of GSM. The victory was second in a row for the CK-based squad as it came from a 16-8 triumph over Ballistics last March 13. The Bears' lone loss this season so far was against the defending champions Aces (4-14) last March 9.

The Mariners, on the other hand, absorbed their third defeat against two victories, as they failed to make a follow-up on their easy 25-7 win against the Outlaws last week.

The game between the Bears and Mariners was halted for more than 10 minutes after the former's starting pitcher J.J. Lizama was hit by the line drive of leadoff hitter Shane Yamada at the top of the fourth. J.J. ducked and turned sideways as he tried to get out of the ball's direction but it was too late. The ball hit the back of his head, prompting game officials to stop the match, as paramedics were called in to administer first aid. J.J. was later taken to CHCC to undergo observation and further tests.

JON PEREZ

Chalan Kanoa Bears pitcher A.J. Lizama waits for the sign of catcher Virgil Secharmidal during their game against the Mariners in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Jose Lizama replaced J.J. and retired Mariners designated hitter Mark Flores, before giving up a single to Jon Villagomez, who was eventually stranded with Yamada after Rick Salas and Jerry Kintol struck out against the right-handed hurler.

Jose had a quick inning in the fifth—fanned Jonah Flores, forced Pat Tenorio to pop out, and grounded out K.J. Deleon Guerrero. However, it took him six batters to end the sixth where he was tagged with one earned run after Yamada, who got on base on a throwing error by shortstop Kiku Lizama with the bases loaded, scored on a Nate Smith RBI walk.

A.J. then took over from Jose and pitched the last three innings where he surrendered one run—earned—on two hits with four strikeouts and one walk. It took five batters and two hits for A.J. to wrap up the game.

He fanned Jonah Flores, but allowed a single to Pat Tenorio, keeping the Mariners' hopes alive. Deleon Guerrero struck out, while Ton Tenorio drove in younger brother Pat with a double to help the Mariners stay in the game.

A.J. then finally pulled the plug on the Mariners after Yamada struck out swinging to the delight of Bears' fans that stayed in the game past 10pm to cheer for their team.

Besides a strong finish on the mound, A.J. also went 3-for-4 at bat with one run, an RBI triple in the third, and an RBI single in the sixth. He doubled in the eighth, but was out at home on an excellent defensive play by Mariners catcher Deleon Guerrero, who caught a long throw by Smith from left field.

Kiku Lizama and Angel Palacios, who are both in the Top 10 batting leaders, each went 3-for-5 with the former scoring twice and earning a double and the latter getting one run. Henry Lizama had an RBI single in the second and RBI double in the seventh, as he hit 2-for-4, while Peyton Lizama had a triple and one run on a 1-for-5 performance at the plate.

The Mariners were held by the Bears bullpen to 5-for-31 (.161 average) with Deleon Guerrero going 0-for-5 and brothers Pat and Ton Tenorio combining only for 2-for-9. Their hits came in the ninth as they tried to stage a rally, but came up short.

Hong Ye splits games in Civic Center caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hong Ye played better in the second half to rally past Alamo RAC, 65-57, during their match in the 2018 Civic Center Inter-color Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center court.

Down by double figures at the break, 24-39, Hong Ye held Alamo to 8 points in the third quarter to get back into the game and then caught fire in the fourth to complete the come-from-behind win.

Hong Yeng scored 14 points in the third period and limited Alamo to two field goals and three free throws to cut the deficit to single digit, 38-47. Norman Sahagun and Ed Armia had 4 points apiece in the penultimate canto, while Eugene Manglona, Jeff Fernandez, and Mark Merido added one field goal each to keep Hong Yeng's hopes alive. Carl Aldan and Donnel Isip made the field goals in Alamo's third-quarter meltdown.

Alamo continued to fall in the final canto, while Efren Tanagras Jr. stepped up for Hong Ye after going scoreless in the second and third to hand his squad the 8-point win. Tanagras had 10 points in the fourth quarter, while big men Sahagun and Hal Spott combined for 11 markers.

Sahagun top-scored for Hong Ye with his 18 points, while Tanagras and Spott finished with 13 and 10, respectively.

The win over Alamo allowed Hong Ye to bounce back from a 51-59 loss to Chowtime last Sunday.

Jomac Manzano and Ton Broncano delivered timely baskets in the fourth quarter to help Chowtime's cause. Manzano dropped 8 of his 10 points in the final frame, while Broncano had 6. Jawn Joyner and Ramsa Tenepere combined for 7 markers and the former ended up with a team-high 13 points and the latter also finished in twin digits with his 11.

Sahagun paced Hong Ye with hid 17 points.

Thunder 67, RNV 59

In the other match last Sunday, the Thunder struck RNV Construction.

The Thunder buckled down to work in the second half, turning a 26-31 halftime deficit to a 52-47 cushion and finishing off its opponent in the fourth quarter.

Held to less than 20 points in each of the first two periods, the Thunder registered 26 in the third to grab the upper hand from RNV. Jerome Dirrecto and Ron Gamboa teamed up for 13 points for the Thunder in the pivotal third. Then in the fourth canto, it was the turn of J.R, Mina and Leri Ortiz to join forces and power the Thunder to the 8-point win, as the duo totaled for 11 points.

Budotz 67, Civic Masters 59

Budotz also got its rhythm in the second half to beat the Civic Masters.

Behind at the break, 21-27, Budotz fired 20 points in the third canto against the 9 of the struggling Civic Masters to take the driver's seat, 41-36, going into the final quarter.

Budotz then delivered the killer blows in the payoff period behind the two triples of Jeff Che and Arjay Nonato's 7 points to earn the victory. Six other Budotz players scored in the team's fourth-quarter scoring surge, while only five hit the board for the Civic Masters.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hong Ye's Hal Spott, right, tries to dribble past the defense of Chowtime's Jerald Rivera during their game in the Civic Center caging last Sunday at the Civic Center court.

Atkins Kroll Saipan donates prize for Hyatt golf tourney

Atkins Kroll Saipan has donated a 2017 Toyota Tacoma TMAX Pre-Runner as hole-in-one prize (No. 13) for the Hyatt Regency Saipan 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic set for April 7 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

Atkins Kroll Saipan's contribution qualifies the company as a platinum event partner—the highest partnership level across the tournament.

"We are excited to partner again with the Charity Golf Classic and support our local community. Caring for our community is a theme that resonates with the Atkins Kroll Saipan team and this year we are proud to once again offer Saipan's most popular light truck as a hole-in-one prize for the 22nd Annual Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic. Best of luck on the greens to all the participants in this highly popular annual event," Atkins Kroll Saipan general manager Glen Perez said.

"This is a significant year for us. It marks our 22nd charity golf classic anniversary and we are grateful for Atkins Kroll Saipan's generous donation. We hope one lucky golf player makes that shot on the green this April 7 and gets to drive the new Toyota Pre-Runner home. The support of Atkins Kroll alongside other event sponsors makes our mission of caring for our community possible," Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa said.

The tournament's beneficiaries this year includes Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNM; CNMI Salvation Army; CNMI Center for Living Independently; 670 Sonics Basketball Association; Dan Dan Middle School STEM and Garden Club; and Saipan Paddling Club. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Kevin Barnes, Gabriele Colombo, Mark Sablan, Glen Perez, Tyrell Pauling, Ben Morse, Liza Taylor, Zenn Tomokane, and Naum Vekhov pose with the brand new car that Atkins Kroll Saipan has donated as hole-in-one prize for next month's Hyatt Regency Saipan 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic

McIlroy, Johnson lose early at Match Play

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron's 35 points, 17 assists lift Cavs past Raptors

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Impressive pro field in Tagaman

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Returning champ Manami Iijima of Guam might encounter strong opposition in her bid for back-to-back titles in the 29th Tagaman Triathlon that will take place tomorrow and feature a notable pro field.

Iijima is one of the seven women entered in the pro/elite division and will challenge the much longer 70.3-mile course—spread into a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike, and 13.1-mile run. In the men's field, there are five competitors. The half Ironman distance race will start with the swim from the waters off Kanoa Resort to Kilili Beach and transition to the bike leg from Kilili Beach to Banzai Cliff and back. The run leg is from Kilili to American Memorial Park and back to the finish line at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

South Korean Dan Bi Hong, Japan's Maki Nishiuchi, and four others stand in the way of Iijima's attempt for a repeat in the Western Pacific region's longest-running multisport race. Both triathletes have International Triathlon Union world rankings.

Iijima was the second overall in last year's race (shorter distance), finishing behind fellow returning winner Aleksandr Dorovskikh of Russia (2:12:01.8). The Guam triathlete timed in at 2:12:52 in the 51.50 course or more than eight minutes faster that the Philippines' Maria Hodges (2:21:04).

In the longer race this Saturday, Iijima will be facing the 29-year-old Hong, who is cur-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants, organizers, and sponsors of the 2018 Tagaman Triathlon pose for a photo during a press conference yesterday at the Kanoa Resort.

Close win for Lady Ol'Aces

JON PEREZ

The Lady Ol'Aces' Lia Rangamar, second left, tries to get past the defense of Annalei Santos, left, and Sylvina Simram, right, while Eleina Santos, third left, closes in on the play during their game in the MIBF island-wide caging last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Lady Ol'Aces labored for a 48-45 debut win over the Ol'Aces in the women's division of the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Lady Ol'Aces pulled off the close victory after holding the Ol'Aces to two field goals in the fourth quarter, which began with the latter ahead by 6, 40-34.

The Ol'Aces, which prevailed in their first game of the season last Monday after downing Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, 65-51, missed making it back-to-back, as only Jaime Pangelinan and Alliyah Fernandez knocked in field goals in the fourth quarter. Eleina Santos, who finished the first three periods with 15 points, was limited to a free throw in the pivotal fourth frame.

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Kanoa, TanHoldings-1 stay on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and TanHoldings-1 retained the No. 1 spot in their respective divisions after recording victories last Saturday in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

In the co-ed U13 division, TanHoldings downed Matansa at the Hopwood Middle School Field, 7-4, to gain a 5-0-0 win-loss-draw record and keep its lead against MP United (4-1-0), Kanoa-1 (2-1-2), Matansa (2-0-3), Kanoa-2 (1-0-4), and TanHoldings-2 (0-0-5).

Angelo Pulido and Anthony Bergancia teamed up in lifting TanHoldings-1 to its fifth victory in as many games. Pulido drilled TanHoldings-1's first three goals, as he scored in the ninth, 15th, and 28th minute. His hat trick allowed TanHoldings to hang on to a 3-2

See KANOA on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club, right, and Shirley's FC players collide as they fight for the ball during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.